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FINANCIAL TIMES

No. 29,558 Saturday February 23 1985 *** 35p

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The secret of Arthur Scargill's spell
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revives - again
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Get up and go holidays
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WORLD NEWS

Chernenko's ill health made public

The Soviet public was told officially for the first time that President Konstantin Chernenko, 73, was ill when he was unable to make a Kremlin speech linked to tomorrow's nationwide local elections.

Moscow Communist Party head and Politburo member Viktor Grishin told selected voters that Chernenko "could not attend the meeting on doctors' recommendation." His speech was read out to Moscow district voters. Back Page

Blow to government

Austrian Construction Minister Karl Seikanina resigned after allegations of irregularities over loans and the purchase of a villa delivering a fresh blow to the Socialist-led coalition government. Page 2

Order against NUT

A High Court judge ordered the National Union of Teachers to call off disruptive action by teachers in Solihull schools. The union will seek to continue its action after a ballot. Page 4

Spy stories disowned

Five suspects in India's industrial espionage scandal, including two officials from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's office, said they wanted to retract confessions because they were made under duress. Mr Gandhi is to visit the U.S., France, Algeria and Egypt in June.

Software 'robbery'

Copyright pirates are estimated to have cost the UK computer software industry £150m in lost sales and royalties last year, parliament was told. Page 3

EEG jobless peak

Unemployment in the European Community rose sharply last month to reach a record 13.6m.

Computer concern

The Bank of England has sent a special guide on the risks associated with computer use in banks to 600 UK banks and deposit takers. Page 3

Mali crash kills 50

Fifty people were killed when a domestic airliner crashed on take-off from Timbuktu, Mali.

Police die in blast

A national state of emergency was extended for a month in Sri Lanka after Tamil separatists killed five policemen in a landmine explosion.

Greek presidency

Greek presidential elections will be held on March 15 with parliament likely to support Constantinos Karamanlis for another five-year term. Page 2

Change of tune

Andrew Lloyd Webber, British hit musical composer, has written a requiem mass which will be performed for the first time tomorrow in a New York church.

Briefly...

Social Democratic Party founder member Roy Jenkins re-entered the Royal Free Hospital, London, for a small adjusting operation following prostate surgery in December.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens will visit Britain for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on March 2.

BUSINESS SUMMARY

BTR seeks Takeover Panel aid

BTR, the broadly-based conglomerate which has made a £33m bid for Dunlop, has turned to the Takeover Panel and the Stock Exchange in a bid to wring more information from the tyre and rubber products group.

The panel confirmed that it had held informal discussions with both companies, and expects to decide what to do early next week. Back Page

DAIMLER-BENZ, the West

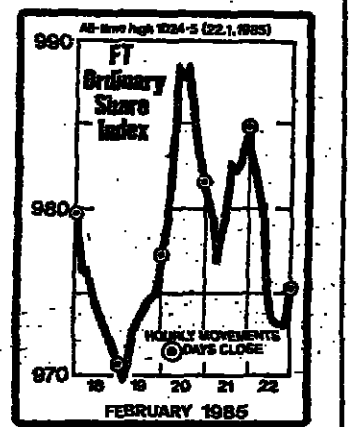
German motor manufacturer, is to take full control of Motoren- und Turbinen-Union in a deal estimated to be worth some DM 500m (£136.9m). The motor group already owns 50 per cent of MTU. Page 21

TAKEOVER OF BPM Holdings,

owners of the Birmingham Post and Mail newspaper, by Yattendon Investment Trust has been referred by the Government to the Monopolies Commission. Page 20

EQUITIES turned weaker yesterday,

mainly on President Reagan's comments about the dollar. Page 24



dollar, and the FT Ordinary Share Index closed 9.7 down at 975.2. London Stock Market, Page 24

OFFSHORE BANKS and deposit

takers who want to advertise for deposits in the UK face stiff new requirements from the Bank of England aimed at ensuring that depositors are properly protected. Page 3

THREE APRICOT Inc. U.S.

executives have resigned from the company which was set up recently with \$20m (£15.7m) to sell Applied Computer Techniques' business personal computers in the U.S. The resignations follow disagreements with the UK company over management style. Back Page

NORTH SEA oil prices showed

sharp falls mainly because of the arrival on the market of considerable quantities of Iranian crude. April shipments of Brent oil, the UK market crude, were quoted at \$26.90 a barrel, down 55 cents from Thursday's best levels. Page 3

ATLANTIC Richfield, the U.S.

oil group, is planning to invest \$20m (£15.7m) to set up a chemicals plant in Marseilles to produce additives for the European lead-free petrol market. Back Page

PAULS, the animal and feed

and malt group, plans a \$25m (£19.2m) U.S. expansion of its flavours and fragrances business. Page 20

BOOKER McCONNELL, the

food distribution and agribusiness group which is fighting a £20m bid from Dee Corporation, is buying Fitch Lovell's 13 cash and carry wholesale depots for £6.7m. Page 20

\$ soars as Reagan refuses to intervene

BY PHILIP STEPHENS

THE DOLLAR staged another remarkable rise on foreign exchange markets yesterday, taking the rise in its overall value over the week to nearly 3.5 per cent.

The immediate trigger for the gains was President Reagan's statement that the U.S. was not prepared to take action artificially to depress the value of the dollar, but dealers said the momentum of its recent rise had also become self-generating.

The President's comments on Thursday were seen in the market as signalling that central banks were not prepared to launch a joint attack on the U.S. currency and provoked a wave of speculative buying.

They also proved somewhat embarrassing to Mrs Thatcher who returned from Washington yesterday after trying to impress on Mr Reagan the difficulties posed by the dollar's strength for European governments.

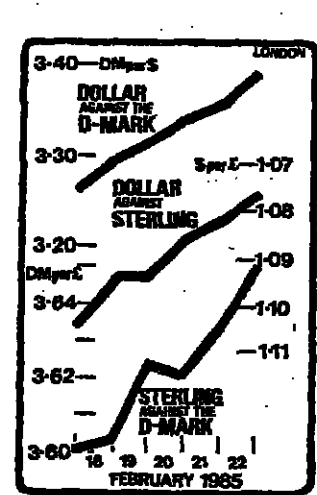
The pound, however, suffered less than the Deutsche Mark, which has borne the brunt of the dollar's climb in recent days.

The U.S. currency closed yesterday at DM 3.5870, up 3.1 pence from Thursday, and 12 pence higher than at the start of the week.

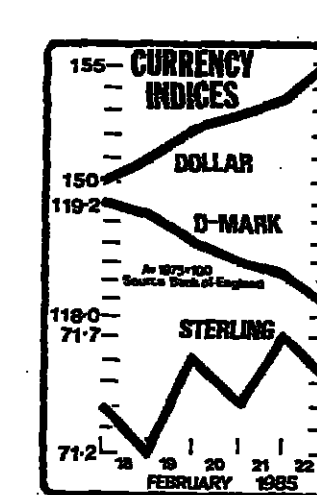
Sterling lost 0.5 cents to end the day at a record low of \$1.0770 and was 2.6 cents lower on the week but it registered further gains against most other currencies. The sterling index's 0.2 point fall to 71.5 was thus a reflection of dollar strength.

The dollar's rise did, however, push up sterling interest rates, with the key three-month interbank rate now at over 14 per cent. This indicates that there is no prospect of an early fall in the bank's base rates.

Some City brokers suggested



3.40-DOLLARS
DOLLAR-D-MARK
3.60
3.58
3.56
3.54
3.52
3.50
3.48
3.46
3.44
3.42
3.40
FEBRUARY 1985



119.2
120.0
119.8
119.6
119.4
119.2
119.0
118.8
118.6
118.4
118.2
118.0
FEBRUARY 1985

that if the dollar continued to climb at such a rapid rate it could bring renewed upward pressure on borrowing costs.

The dollar also swept to record highs against the French franc, Italian lira and a host of smaller currencies.

Earlier in the week it had been boosted by the testimony of Mr Paul Volcker, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, to the U.S. Congress, which was taken as evidence that the next move in U.S. interest rates might well be upwards.

The coincidence of Mr Reagan's remarks and Mrs Thatcher's return to London was seized upon by Opposition leaders as indicating that her Washington talks had been a failure.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, said that the Prime Minister had come away "totally empty-handed." President Reagan had "made it brutally clear that he does not intend to bail out the British economy."

The response from Downing Street was that the President and Mrs Thatcher were in full

agreement that the best way to tackle the problem of the dollar was to cut the U.S. budget deficit.

Elsewhere in Whitehall, however, officials were privately conceding that Mr Reagan's comments were "less than helpful."

Central banks yesterday remained on the sidelines as the dollar rose, leading some dealers to suggest that, for the time being at least, the banks have given up hope of halting the trend.

Others suggested that, after such a rapid climb, the U.S. currency could be vulnerable to central bank dollar sales, particularly by the West German Bundesbank, although the underlying trend was likely to remain upwards.

Some dealers also believe that profit-taking could produce a temporary setback for the dollar next week.

Volcker sent chill down Wall St. Page 18; Thatcher's special relationship, Page 19; Money market, Page 23; Retail prices up, Back Page

Delay for BA's Laker settlement

BY DUNCAN CAMPBELL-SMITH

BRITISH AIRWAYS has been forced to delay by one month the deadline it set itself early this year for settling the U.S. legal problem which has postponed privatisation.

The airline had hoped by the end of this week to reach agreement in principle with all the creditors left out of pocket after the 1982 collapse of Laker Airways.

However, Export-Import Bank of the U.S., the largest of the creditors, has made clear that the terms of a deal put to it last week still fall well short of being acceptable. It is the only creditor yet to accept at least the broad outline of the settlement proposed by BA.

Settlement editors have been offered financial compensation in exchange for an end to the \$1.05bn (£75m) U.S. civil anti-trust suit. This has been brought against BA and nine other international airlines.

Exim's negative response, given at the start of the week, prompted another meeting in Washington on Wednesday be-

tween Mr William Draper, Exim's chairman, and Mr Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, who was accompanied by the airline's lawyers.

Yesterday, BA was reviewing an amended version of the terms, which it plans to submit to Exim early next week. Meanwhile, options arranged by BA for it to buy the debts of Laker's trade creditors were due to expire on February 28. These are being hastily adjusted.

At least three objections are thought to be deterring Exim from totting the general line accepted by the rest of the creditors:

● The size of the proposed settlement. Exim is owed \$30m in principal repayments and about \$40m of interest in arrears. BA's ideas are believed to offer Exim only a percentage of the \$30m, leaving Exim to write off the interest and some more.

● The embarrassment of a big write-off. Exim has never written off a loan in the private

sector remotely comparable with the Laker financing.

● The principle of a repayment to Sir Freddie Laker. Exim is known to share the view of several big creditors that, since his status as shareholder in Laker Airways' parent does not entitle him to any legal pay ment ahead of the creditors, Sir Freddie should not receive a penny by any informal arrangement.

Exim itself has declined to comment on its talks with BA. But some other parties to the U.S. litigation are privately expressing considerable pessimism about the chances of shifting the bank's position.

BA stressed yesterday, however, that it remained quietly confident. The airline appears to be setting some store by the Government's enthusiasm for privatisation and its own political lobbying skills. Lord King, BA's chairman, was in Washington on a private visit this week, but therefore, if any, for political influence over Exim is far from clear.

BP opts for flag of convenience

BY ANDREW FISHER, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH PETROLEUM, Britain's biggest oil company, is to put part of its tanker fleet under a flag of convenience for the first time. It will use foreign crews on two vessels to save on UK manning and fleet costs.

The move, announced yesterday, is aimed at making BP Shipping profitable. The company has cut its fleet in recent years after large financial losses. BP also announced plans to add several ships to its fleet, which comprises crude oil and oil product carriers and offshore vessels.

To save on British crew costs,

two of the existing refined product carriers will go under the Bahamas flag and be manned under contract by a Far East company.

This will save an estimated \$800,000 a year. Another of the product carriers—BP has 17 altogether—will be sold. Each ship has a crew of about 30.

BP said no jobs would be lost among its 1,900 staff at sea. But they have been told to expect a gradual move from bulk tanker shipping to offshore service and support ships.

The group is adding three ships to its medium-sized tanker

fleet. One, renamed BP Energy from the Libra, has been bought. All will be under the Bahama flag, but with BP crews. The moves do not involve BP's remaining eight very large crude carriers.

The Bahama registration of the three extra ships will save a total of £1.5m in initial registration costs. Putting ships under the UK flag involves extensive modifications to conform to regulations.

BP said none of the savings on the Bahama flag would affect safety. The ships could also be returned to British-flag operation in time of war or other emergency.

Citicorp bids £7m for broker to the Bank

By David Lascelles, Banking Correspondent

CITICORP of New York emerged yesterday as the mystery bidder for Seccombe, Marshall & Campion, the UK discount house which acts as the Bank of England's broker in the money markets.

In a dramatic deal, which challenges many City conventions and is typical of the aggressively managed U.S. bank, Citicorp has agreed to pay £7m for Seccombe, whose shares are quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

Citicorp's deal has the Bank of England's approval and is historic even by the standards of the big changes already sweeping the City.

It will make Citicorp the first bank, UK or foreign, to own a UK discount house. As such, it signals a major shift in the Bank of England's policy of separating discount houses from banks to preserve the integrity of the discount market. The view in the City last night was that further bank-discount house acquisitions must be in the offing.

The deal also ends the 60-year relationship between the Bank and Seccombe and means that the Bank will have to make its own arrangements for dealing in the money markets, through which it supplies liquidity to the British banking system. The Bank expects to establish its own dealing room this year. The target for the changeover is January 1, 1986.

Seccombe, smaller than the publicly quoted discount houses, said on Wednesday that it had received an offer from an unidentified bidder. The revelation that it was Citicorp came as a surprise.

The U.S. bank is offering 44p a share in cash or loan notes. Seccombe's shares closed last night at 41p, an increase of 20p, having earlier reached 42.5p. The £7m price represents a substantial premium of nearly 50 per cent over Seccombe's net asset value.

The bid is being made through Citicorp International Bank Limited (CIBL), Citicorp's London merchant banking arm, which already plans to buy two UK stockbroking firms, Vickers de Costa and Scrimgeour Kemp. Continued on Back Page Background, Page 3

Miners in surge back, says NCB

BY JOHN LLOYD AND ROBIN REEVES

THE National Coal Board claimed a sharp surge in the numbers of "new faces" returning to the pits yesterday as the three national officials of the National Union of Mineworkers sought an audience with the TUC "inner cabinet" on Monday.

The numbers returning to work yesterday reached 443, five times more than last Friday and the best figure for a Friday since mid-November. It sent soaring the NCB's hopes of getting a massive return on Monday and brought the number of working miners to 87,000 out of the NUM membership of 188,000. The number of miners returning over the past week was 2,177.

Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, said miners were already "taking the only sane decision" by returning to work. The day had marked not only a high return to work but a week in which more coal will have been delivered to Britain's power stations than in any week since the dispute started.

The request for a meeting with the TUC's finance and general purposes committee from the NUM's three national officials, Mr Arthur Scargill, the president, Mr Peter Heathfield, the general secretary, and Mr Mick McCabe, the vice-president, came on Thursday night, and was made public by the TUC yesterday.

The TUC said the NUM had given no reason for the meeting. Senior leaders of the TUC, especially those who formed the seven-man liaison group, remained angry yesterday over the NUM's rejection of the modified settlement document which the TUC had succeeded in negotiating with the NCB. They were especially angered by Mr Scargill's characterisation of the new proposals as "100 per cent worse."

The committee, besides listening to what the NUM officials have to say, will hear a report from Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, on the TUC's efforts for the miners, and will then endorse a report for the general council next Wednesday. The dominant mood among TUC leaders remains that the TUC could and should do no more for the NUM.

Mr Scargill, Mr Heathfield and Mr McCabe will speak in London tomorrow at a rally organised by the TUC's south-east region.

Two NUM areas—South Wales and Durham—yesterday reaffirmed their support for the strike. In South Wales, the most solid area, 600 delegates representing the coalfield's 19,500 mineworkers, also voted not to return to work without first securing an amnesty for miners sacked by the NCB for various proved or alleged offences.

The one pit delegation to vote against the decision—believed to be Celyn South, in Gwent—had called for talks to be resumed. The pit meets today to discuss a possible concerted return to work.

Mr Emlyn Williams, the South Wales president, acknowledged after the meeting in Bridgend that the decision would not be popular throughout the coalfield. "Obviously we will face problems, but that is what leadership is all about," he said.

"Peter Walker has said there will be no more talks on about 10 occasions. Even Norman Willis said on three occasions this week that the NCB document was fixed in concrete. But we found it could be modified."

Mr Giles Shaw, a junior Home Office minister, said in a Commons written answer yesterday that police had made 9,558 arrests in connection with the strike and that 1,985 policemen had been injured.

Dr Paul Glover, NCB's director general of staff, is to retire at the end of February, with plans to start his own personal advisory service. The board has invited him to assist with its residential training programmes.

Tailors' dummies dressed like miners have been carried on buses taking pitmen to work at a Co Durham colliery, the NUM claimed yesterday, but the board dismissed the reports as "rubbish."

Mr Ross Forbes Durham NUM press officer, the union had two eyewitness accounts of men unloading dummies near Vane Tempus colliery near Seaham.

The models were dressed in donkey jackets and flat caps and were taken from buses with reinforced windows into an NCB storage building.

Coal blockade. Page 4; Scargill's spell, Page 19

MARKETS

DOLLAR
New York lunchtime:
DM 3.5825
FF 10.3595
SwFr 2.08575
Y262.9
London:
DM 3.587 (3.556)
FF 10.37 (10.3625)
SwFr 2.0865 (2.087)
Dollar Index 155.1 (153.3)
Tokyo close Y262.35

U.S. LUNCHE TIME RATES
Fed Funds 6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: 8.4%
Long Bond: 9 1/4%
yield: 11.73

GOLD

New York: Comex Feb latest \$289.5
London: \$289 (289.25)
Chief price changes yesterday, Back Page

STERLING
New York lunchtime \$1.0765
London: \$1.077 (1.083)
DM 3.580 (3.6235)
FF 11.165 (11.110)
SwFr 2.08 (2.0625)
Y262.25 (same)
Sterling Index 71.5 (71.7)

LONDON MONEY
3-month interbank:
closing rate 14 1/4% (13 1/4%)
3-month eligible bills:
buying rate 13 1/4% (13 1/4%)

STOCK INDICES

FT Ord 975.21 (-9.7)
FT-A All Share 611.11 (0.6%)
FT-SE 100 1268.9 (-10.2)
FT-A long gilt yield 10.82
High coupon 10.89 (10.82)
New York lunchtime:
DJ Ind Av 1,275.95 (-3.09)
Tokyo:
Nikkei Dow 12,147.06 (+18.60)

CONTINENTAL SELLING PRICES: Austria Sch 18; Belgium Fr 36; Denmark Kr 7.25; France Fr 6.00; W. Germany DM 2.30; Italy L1,300; Netherlands Fl 2.50; Norway Kr 6.00; Portugal Esc 80; Spain Ptas 110; Sweden Kr 6.50; Switzerland Sfr 2.20; Ireland 60p; Malta 30c.

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Irish birth control Bill set to cause dismay in Rome

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

THIS WEEK'S decision of the Irish Parliament to defy the country's Roman Catholic hierarchy and approve a measure permitting some forms of birth control will have been viewed with dismay by Pope John Paul II.

Quite apart from the fact that the encyclical Humanae Vitae of 1968—issued by his predecessor Pope Paul VI—banned contraception, the Pope has made the preservation and sanctity of family life one of the key issues in his battle to correct the course of a Catholic Church which he feels has become doctrinally too lax.

In Ireland the Bill presented by Dr Garret Fitzgerald's Government which liberalises the sale of non-medical contraceptives was overwhelmingly approved by Dr Kevin McNamara, one of several conservative bishops who the present Pope has

DR DERMOT RYAN, who died of a heart attack at the age of 60 on Thursday, was the only Irishman to head a Department of State in the Vatican in the 1,500-year history of the Irish Church, writes Brendan Keenan from Dublin. His appointment to what is in effect the No. 3 post in the Catholic Church was seen as proof of Pope John Paul II's special interest in Ireland. The theory runs that the Pope sees parallels between

appointed and who share many of his convictions. Others favoured by the Pope include recently Boston, Detroit, Brasília, S'Herogenbosch (the biggest diocese in Holland) and more. In many cases the appointment dismayed members of the clergy and congregations. The recently appointed

the conservatism, piety and even, the political struggles of the Irish Church and his own native Poland. Dr Ryan was the major conservative figure in the Irish hierarchy in his 12-year period as Archbishop of Dublin, and Rome overruled local preferences in choosing another conservative, Dr Kevin McNamara, to succeed him.

Even so, recent reports suggested that Dr Ryan in Rome was showing a more sympathetic attitude to the bishops are inclined to be more interested in questions of theology and doctrine than their predecessors who concentrated more on pastoral matters. The Pope's priority seems to be to change the direction of the Church through the bishops. Pope John Paul is deeply concerned that the Church is

problem of the Church in the third-world countries, particularly Latin America, then some other senior churchman or, indeed, the Pope himself. His job of overseeing the Church's worldwide missionary activities is so powerful that the incumbent is known as the "Red Pope." Ironically, Dr Ryan, only six months in the job, never had a chance to don the cardinal's red. There is no doubt that, like most Irish bishops, he shared

becoming less interested in its traditional doctrines and that as a result it is losing support—in the form of falling church attendance, baptisms, candidates for the priesthood and so on. It is anxiety shared by many priests and lay Catholics. The Pope, who was of course brought up in the Polish church, probably the most conservative

John Paul's vision of a new "counter-Reformation" against materialism, sexual freedom and religious liberty. Dr Ryan was well suited to the complex world of the Vatican. His combination of administrative skills, conservatism made him just the kind of churchman likely to be favoured by the present Pope and there was even speculation that he could be a candidate that he could be a credible candidate for the papacy himself.

of all, has used his visits to Latin America and other parts of the Third World to campaign vigorously against "liberation theology," a blend of Catholicism and Marxism, and against the participation in politics by priests, especially in Nicaragua. Recently the West German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, whom the Pope appointed head

of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (the successor to the Inquisition) sharply criticised the current attitudes of Catholic churches almost everywhere—except in Eastern Europe. He said that the era which began with Vatican Council II in 1962 to 1965 was "definitely unfavourable to the Catholic Church."

Liberals—the Church, alarmed by example by the Pope's decision last autumn to permit the Mass once again to be said in Latin under certain conditions, a reversal of a Vatican II decision, believe that Pope John Paul wants to roll back other reforms.

They therefore look with some apprehension to the Pope's recent decision to call a special Synod of bishops in Rome in November. The Pope himself said that the Synod would be held to "deepen the understanding" of that Council "in the light of new needs."



The Pope—a blow to his new orthodoxy

Minister's resignation hits Austrian coalition

By Patrick Munn in Vienna

AUSTRIA'S beleaguered coalition government suffered another blow yesterday with the resignation of Herr Sekanina, the Socialist Minister for Construction, after press allegations of financial misconduct.

Herr Sekanina offered his resignation to Chancellor Fred Sinowatz, also a Socialist, who promptly accepted. Earlier in the week Herr Sekanina resigned as leader of the metalworkers' union, one of Austria's most powerful unions. Herr Sekanina is alleged to have used Sch 400,000 (£15,800) from union funds to buy a car for his stepson. He is also alleged to have bought a villa in Hietzing, Vienna's fashionable 13th district, for Sch 11m, well below the estimated market price of Sch 12m from a company which it is claimed usually handles building contracts for the Ministry.

Herr Sekanina denies both claims and said he had done nothing underhand. He said yesterday that he was the victim of a campaign against him, that he only borrowed the money from his union for four months to buy the car and that there was nothing unusual in this.

He said he told Chancellor Sinowatz that he could disprove the allegations, but had decided to resign because he did not wish to cause the Government embarrassment.

In a short statement announcing the minister's resignation, Chancellor Sinowatz said yesterday: "I cannot test whether the rumours concerning Herr Sekanina are true or not, but the fact that they exist would be a burden for the work of the Government and that is the reason why I have accepted his resignation."

This is another damaging blow for the Government, which has lately stumbled from political row to political row. It comes less than two months after the Government's embarrassing retreat over the building of the Hainburg power plant in December and another row a few weeks later over the Defence Minister's action in ordering a war criminal and former SS officer on his return to Austria after his release from an Italian jail. There is growing speculation here that the Government will not stay the course to complete its term of office until the next general elections due in 1987.

Turkey protests to Bulgaria

Turkey yesterday issued a protest note to the Bulgarian Ambassador in Ankara over Bulgaria's treatment of its large Turkish minority. David Barclay writes from Ankara. The note is believed to indicate that Turkey disbelieves recent Bulgarian denials that ethnic Turks have been killed and injured while resisting official efforts to Slavise their names. It calls on the Bulgarian authorities to take urgent steps to remedy the situation.

South Africa closes nuclear power station

South Africa's only nuclear power station, Koeberg, has been taken out of service while engineers investigate faults in the station's stainless steel pipework. Jim Jones writes from Johannesburg. Koeberg, about 80 miles along the coast from Cape Town, has two pressurised water reactors and was built by Framatome, the French nuclear company. The station was closed down on Thursday after a routine inspection of the No. 2 reactor surface faults. Koeberg has been in operation since February 1984 when the No. 1 reactor began generating power.

Black opposition leader arrested

The round of arrests of black opposition and trade union leaders continued yesterday in South Africa with the detention of Mr Thozama Gqweta, a leader of the South African Allied Workers' Union, on charges of treason. Jim Jones writes from Johannesburg. Mr Gqweta joins three other SAAW leaders and four leaders of the United Democratic Front who were detained earlier this week and who are due to appear in court on charges of treason. The Supreme Court on March 27. The arrests have given rise to nationwide protests.

Israel rejects call to speed pullout

BY LYNN RICHARDSON IN TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday rejected calls for a speedier withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, in the face of constant attacks on the occupying troops.

"We are not going to run away unnecessarily, just because we are being attacked," he said. Mr Peres was speaking on his return from Italy and Romania.

Israeli troops came under attack in three separate incidents in Southern Lebanon yesterday but suffered no casualties. Senior Israeli army

officers claimed that recent punitive attacks against the predominantly Shi'ite villages in the occupied sector of Lebanon have been effective.

Israeli forces have adopted a tough line of action with raids resulting in some deaths of local residents. Several dozen villagers have been expelled from the region and many others taken prisoner.

Just a few hours before the Prime Minister returned to Israel, price increases of 25 per cent on basic foodstuffs were announced together with

an 11 per cent hike in fuel prices.

The increases brought a storm of protest from the Histadrut trade union federation, and the Manufacturers Association, both represented in the three-sided pact with the Government aimed at holding down prices and wages during the coming months.

Richard Johns adds from Beirut: Increased Israeli repression of the population of South Lebanon and policy of reprisals will only intensify guerrilla ambushes and attacks against

the occupying troops, a Shi'ite leader warned yesterday.

Mr Akel-Haydar, chairman of the Politbureau of the radical Shi'ite movement, Amal, said: "Israel should know that the resistance in the south feeds on Israel's violence and crime, strengthening the resistance not weakening it."

In an interview yesterday Mr Timur Goksel, Unifil's spokesman at Nakoura, expressed the view that Israel's iron-fisted policy would probably prove counter-productive in terms of increasing resistance.

Rebels want a dictatorship, says Managua

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

NICARAGUA yesterday issued an angry retort to President Ronald Reagan's latest call for the "removal" of the Sandinista Government, charging that the U.S.-backed contra rebels were seeking to install a repressive, dictatorial regime.

The Nicaraguan embassy in Washington published a long list of the main contra leaders, who Mr Reagan has described as "our brothers," claiming that the vast majority of them had been active supporters of the

former right-wing dictator, President Anastasio Somoza, ousted by the Sandinistas in 1979.

The so-called "freedom fighters" were basically President Somoza's former national guard, whose objective was "to restore the same oppressive regime that existed before their triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution," the embassy said. It claimed that 97 per cent of the general staff of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN),

the main contra group, were Somoza supporters.

The Nicaraguan riposte came the day Mr Reagan told a nation that the Sandinistas should ally themselves with the rebels and change their revolutionary goals, if they wanted to stop him seeking their overthrow.

Repeatedly pressed as to whether he wanted to remove the Sandinista Government, Mr Reagan replied, "well, remove it in the sense of its present

structure, in which it is a Communist, totalitarian state, and it is not a government chosen by the people."

Pursuing his campaign to persuade Congress to release covert aid funds for the contras, Mr Reagan described the Sandinistas as brutal and cruel.

Mr Reagan maintains the Sandinistas have turned what was meant to be a democratic revolution into a totalitarian, Marxist-Leninist movement on Cuban lines.

France set to ease exchange controls

By David Marsh in Paris

THE PROSPECT of a further loosening of French exchange controls, centred on an easing of constraints on companies buying foreign exchange to cover import purchases, has been held out by M Daniel Lebeque, the director of the French Treasury.

Speaking at a foreign exchange conference in Lyons yesterday, M Lebeque said relaxation measures would be taken "very shortly" to allow companies a better chance of managing foreign exchange risks.

French Finance Ministry officials said such a step would go in the direction of liberalisation of controls frequently advocated in recent months by M Pierre Berezorov, the Finance Minister. But they stressed no decision had yet been taken.

French companies, which are at present forbidden to buy foreign exchange on the forward market to cover needs for import purchases, have recently been demanding lobbying of the Finance Ministry to allow such transactions.

Bankers say an increasing number of larger firms which need to purchase raw materials abroad—many of them in the nationalised sector—are now being given more flexibility in managing their foreign exchange position.

These groups still, however, have to keep their overall foreign exchange position within limits set by the Treasury.

The Finance Ministry is now ready to take a softer line over exchange controls because of the franc's steady performance against European currencies, the large rise in foreign exchange reserves and the return to near-equilibrium in the country's balance of payments.

Damaging censure debate for Hawke

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL IN SYDNEY

MR BOB HAWKE, Australia's right wing Labor Prime Minister, was lambasted by Mr Andrew Peacock, Opposition leader, during a censure debate in Canberra yesterday that cruelly exposed Mr Hawke's loss of authority.

Mr Hawke's shrill and abrasive performance in parliament left many government backbenchers glum and disappointed.

The censure motion, which was defeated along party lines, harshly criticised Mr Hawke's recent about-face in breaking a commitment that Australia would provide logistical support for monitoring U.S. MX missile tests in the South Pacific.

Mr Peacock said Mr Hawke's action had "damaged Australia's credibility as a reliable ally, undermined our security and humiliated Australia."

Instead of offering strong leadership and confronting anti-American sentiments in his own

party, said Mr Peacock, the Prime Minister had "panicked and caved in to the left."

The revelation three weeks ago that Mr Hawke had agreed to co-operate in MX tests sparked a furore within the Australian Labor Party.

Mr Hawke said yesterday he was not ashamed he changed his mind. He said the MX tests were peripheral to Australia's defence alliance with the U.S., which Labor pledged to maintain.

Since gaining re-election last December 1, Mr Hawke has been plagued by accusations of personal arrogance and weak leadership, as well as charges that prospects for the economy are not as bright as painted in the election campaign.

Sir John Bjelke-Petersen, the Premier of Queensland, claimed the victory yesterday when a two-week-old strike by 1,400 electricity workers finally crumbled. Sir John is an arch-enemy of the Labor Government.

Lange tells Moscow to stay out of nuclear row

BY DAI HAYWARD IN WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND'S Prime Minister Mr David Lange yesterday delivered a stinging rebuke to the Soviet Union for its attempts to widen the breach between New Zealand and the U.S. caused by New Zealand's ban on nuclear warships.

Mr Lange summoned Mr Vladimir Bykov, the Soviet ambassador to his office and told him that he was tired of New Zealand's nuclear policy being constantly misreported and misinterpreted in the Soviet Union. New Zealand was not to be used as ammunition in an anti-U.S. campaign by the Soviet Union, he said.

Mr Lange said the Soviet Union must not interpret recent developments in New Zealand foreign policy as being anti-

American. Despite the differences over the nuclear warship ban New Zealand remained staunchly pro-U.S. and pro-Anzus, said Mr Lange.

Mr Lange's forthright comments to the Soviets were obviously made with one eye on Washington in an effort to thaw some of the continuing coldness in the American attitude to New Zealand before he leaves for the U.S. and London on Monday.

Mr Lange yesterday also answered critics of New Zealand's anti-nuclear policy. It was wrong for critics to claim New Zealand wanted to enjoy the benefits of Anzus without meeting the commitments. Anzus was a conventional weapon alliance, not a nuclear one.

Martens to visit Britain

The EEC's financial problems and the membership of Spain and Portugal will figure largely on the agenda of talks to be held on March 2 between Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister and Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, writes Paul Cheeswright in Brussels.

The British Government has invited Mr Martens to London as part of its policy of shoring up relations with continental Europe. The visit, announced from Downing Street yesterday, follows similar talks held with the Netherlands Government three weeks ago.

Mr Martens, who will be accompanied by Mr Leo Tindemans, the Foreign Minister, will visit London at a time of growing disquiet in Belgium over the timing of cruise missile deployment at Florence, south of Brussels. Nato strategy is also expected to come up in the talks. But by the time of his visit, the Belgian Government may have decided to start cruise deployment.

Mitterrand rejects charges of soft line on terrorism

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Francois Mitterrand yesterday rejected accusations that France was a cradle for terrorists and adopted a lax approach to terrorism.

The French President made these remarks after a working lunch with Sig Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, who arrived yesterday from Bonn.

Relations between France and Italy have been strained in recent weeks following a series of statements by leading Italian figures accusing France of sheltering terrorists. Sig Giovanni Spadolini, the Italian Defence Minister, accused France last month of "housing a multinational of terrorism."

Italy has also asked the French authorities to extradite a large number of Italians accused of links with terrorist movements. President Mitterrand used Sig Craxi's short visit to renew the official French position on extradition, stating that only presumed terrorists accused of murders and other crimes causing death or injury

would be extradited or expelled. However, he insisted that France adopted a tough line against terrorism and that he had never accepted any compromise with terrorists.

About 300 Italian terrorists have taken refuge in France in recent years and many have integrated themselves in the country. President Mitterrand indicated yesterday that France would not extradite members of this small Italian community who had abandoned their extremist activities and were not connected with major crimes. Rupert Cornwell writes from Bonn. West Germany and Italy yesterday kept their options studiously open on whether Western Europe would participate in the controversial U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative for a space-based anti-nuclear missile screen.

This emerged after a meeting here between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Sig Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, whose country holds the EEC presidency.

Spain to sign natural gas deal with Algeria

BY DAVID WHITE IN MADRID

SPAIN AND Algeria are set to end their long-running row over natural gas supplies.

Sr Fernando Moran, Spain's Foreign Minister, plans to fly to Algiers today to sign a new agreement, the ministry said yesterday. It said all the essential details of an accord had been agreed.

The row broke out when the price paid by Spain for Algerian gas came up for revision two years ago. Algeria claimed back payment for the gas which Spain had contracted to buy but not taken.

A long stalemate over price and quantity provoked Algerian trade reprisals which hit Spanish contractors involved in dams and other projects.

The deal commits Spain to paying the same sort of price that France and Italy pay for Algerian gas. This is currently around \$3.80 per million British thermal units, against the \$3 which Spain has been paying.

Spain is also to pay compensation for not fulfilling its "take or pay" clause in the past, but has succeeded in lowering its future annual commitments.

The amount of compensation has not been disclosed but it is believed to be more than \$110m.

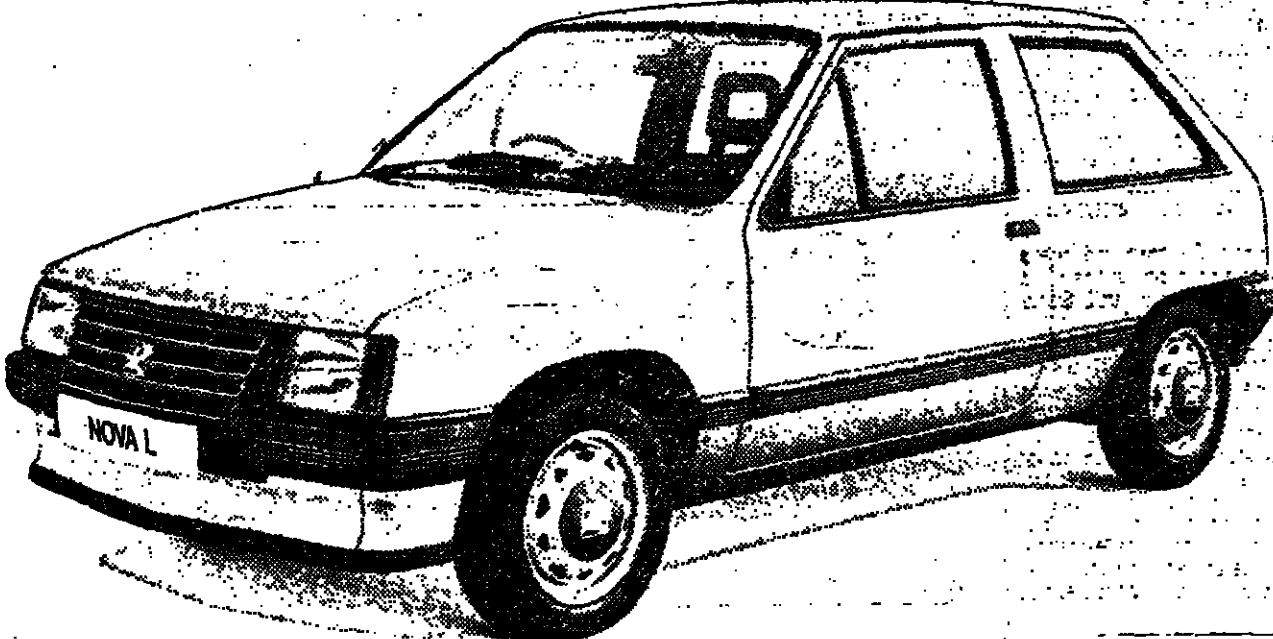
According to industry experts the agreement will give Spain an extra 10-year period to take the gas it agreed to buy in a 15-year contract in 1975.

Over this longer period the level of annual purchases will be 3.2bn cubic metres instead of 4.5bn. Algeria will not insist on this volume being reached until after a transition period of two or three years.

The Spanish state gas com-

pany Enagas has been taking only about one third of the amount originally contracted. Industry experts say the level is now around 2bn cubic metres a year and that the Madrid Government is expected to subsidise prices and promote wider use of natural gas in homes and industry.

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*Calculations do not include delivery, number plates, road fund licence or option to purchase fee of £5.

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Pirates 'rob software industry of £150m'

By Ivor Owen

COPYRIGHT pirates acting on a commercial basis are estimated to have robbed Britain's computer software industry of £150m last year through lost sales and royalties, MPs were told yesterday.

The House of Commons gave an unopposed second reading to the Copyright (Computer Software) Amendment Bill, a private member's measure, designed to give the industry's products the same copyright protection as that accorded to literary works.

The Bill is virtually certain to reach the statute book and, by removing the uncertainty about the present state of the law, is expected to result in a striking increase in the number of successful civil court actions initiated by companies defending copyright.

Where piracy persists on a commercial scale through what Mr. William Powell, chief sponsor of the Bill, described as the activities of the "heavy criminal network," those tried on indictment will face unlimited fines and/or up to two years imprisonment.

He said that products of all sections of the computer software industry, from sophisticated commercial and business systems costing more than £1m to the smallest computer game, were being subjected to unauthorised copying. Last year the total lost through piracy was £150m, he said.

One multinational software house believed that between 10-20 per cent of the users of its products were unauthorised. With the result that it was having to spend £1m a year in trying to secure protection of its copyright through technological means.

MPs of all parties supported the Bill and Mr John Butcher, Under-Secretary for Industry, hoped that the speedy implementation of its provisions would remove the "real threat" facing the British software industry through what was best described as the theft of intellectual property.

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David Lascelles examines the implications of the bid by America's largest bank for Secombe, Marshall & Campion

Citicorp brings financial revolution to the discount market

CITICORP has done it again. Only after a month after becoming the first foreign-owned UK clearing bank, America's largest bank has shattered another British convention with its bid for the discount house, Secombe, Marshall & Campion. No bank, let alone a foreign one, has previously owned one of these small, specialist banks who operate at the very nerve centre of the UK money markets.

The bid also means, as one leading discount broker said yesterday, that "the City revolution has well and truly hit the discount market."

As if that was not enough, Secombe also acts as broker for the Bank of England in the money markets, which means the bank will now have to make its own arrangements in-house for the first time in 60 years.

For decades, the discount houses have acted as market-makers in short-dated instruments, like bills of exchange and certificates of deposit, and provided the liquidity that keeps the money markets turning. But their role is specially sensitive since they also act as a buffer between the Bank of England and the banking system, and for this they have

Broker to the Bank decides to travel first class

Mr David Campion, chairman of Secombe Marshall & Campion, explaining the move said that "we had to get bigger if we were to survive," reports John Moore, City Correspondent.

Citicorp had approached his company last September and the talks "became serious in November. We have not rushed into this as an awful lot of others have. We decided that if we were to travel we would travel first class."

Secombe Marshall, although the smallest of the remaining independent discount houses, has occupied a unique role in the money markets as broker

to the Bank of England in the discount market.

Secombe has been effectively the eyes and ears of the bank in identifying shortages and surpluses in the money market since 1922 and it starts the Bank on the latest positions.

In the last report and accounts for 1984, Mr Campion said that whatever happened in the financial services revolution, "I am sure there will be room for the small specialist among the giants... we see our future role as being in continuous market-making in short term instruments which we have fulfilled since

our foundation in 1922."

But times had changed, said Mr Campion yesterday, and Secombe decided that it could no longer continue as an independent entity.

Secombe's role as the Bank's broker in the discount market is to come to an end by January 1, 1986, when conduct of money market operations is to be transferred to a dealing room within the Bank.

But no staff of Secombe are to move; across to the Bank, unlike the situation at Wulfsberg, the Government's broker in the gilt-edged market, which merged with Mercury Securities.

Absorption by Citicorp of Secombe reduces further the number of independent discount houses operating in London.

In 1980 there were 11 independent discount houses; now there are just six.

Since 1980 Allen Harvey and Ross has merged with Cater Kyder to form Cater Allen. Jessel Toynebee merged with Gillett Bros. in the last year. Mercantile House, the international financial services group, has acquired Alexander, and Jessel Toynebee and Gillett.

Guide gives warning to banks on computer risks

By DAVID LASCELLES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE BANK OF England has sent a special guide on the risks associated with using computers in banking to each of the 60 banks and deposit-takers operating in the UK.

The Bank is stressing that the dispatch of the guide is not a sign of sudden concern about computer security or the result of some recent, unpublished banking computer crisis, but an attempt to anticipate possible troubles.

The initiative arose from a conference of bank supervisors in 1983, when officials from several countries noted that advancing technology carried new risks of which banks and

their supervisors should be aware.

The guide is in three parts and includes a detailed questionnaire which is supposed to help bank management assess the security and quality of their computer systems. The banks are not expected to return the completed questionnaire to the Bank. But the Bank may use it as the basis for discussions with them in the course of its prudential supervision.

The guide, which is in non-technical language, was prepared by Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the accounting firm which acts as the Bank of England's auditors. It opens with

a warning to banks that deficiencies in their computer systems, "can pose a significant threat to achieving success."

It analyses the main risks associated with computers: poor development, errors, interruption, unauthorised disclosure and fraud. It also discusses various controls like prevention, containment, insurance, inspection and audit. But the guide states that the questionnaire is not a substitute for a proper audit.

"Computer security and control procedures must form an integral part of the system of internal control within a bank," it says.

market as an adjunct to — or just the short end of — the gilt-edged and bond markets they are trying to get into through their well-publicised alliances with stockbrokers.

While the Bank of England has eased up on ownership rules, it insists on preserving the traditional barriers around

Government seeks freer air industry

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT is to become more aggressive in its efforts to promote a more liberal attitude towards air transport throughout Western Europe.

This will include efforts to achieve cheaper fares, as well as greater freedom for airlines, both from the UK and elsewhere, to fly whenever and wherever they choose.

The attack is being led by Mr Michael Spicer, the Department of Transport Minister responsible for civil aviation.

UK efforts over the past year have achieved greater freedom for airlines to fly between the UK and the Netherlands and West Germany. These agreements have generated increased traffic at cheaper fares.

But the UK is becoming increasingly impatient at the slow progress in discussions with other countries.

Offshore banks face advertising changes

By MARGARET HUGHES

THE BANK OF England is to introduce stiff new requirements for offshore banks and deposit-takers who want to advertise in the UK.

This coincides with the introduction of composite rate tax (CRT) which UK banks will have to deduct at source from depositors' interest from April 6. This will make offshore bank accounts paying interest gross more attractive to many UK residents, particularly non-taxpayers.

The regulations, which come into force on July 1, are aimed at ensuring that depositors in offshore bank accounts are properly protected.

Depositors in UK bank accounts are automatically protected by the 1979 Banking Act, whereas offshore deposit-takers are not. The regulations will apply to any advertisements inviting UK residents to place deposits "anywhere outside Britain and the EEC." It will include advertisements placed by offshore branches, and subsidiaries of UK banks.

Offshore deposit-takers will be required to make clear in their UK advertisements that depositors are not covered by the Bank of England's scheme where depositors are insured for up to 75 per cent of their losses on deposits of £10,000.

Costs of Channel 4 detailed

By Raymond Snoddy

INDEPENDENT television companies yesterday heard the details of large rises in their subscriptions to pay for Channel 4 and the Welsh fourth channel, S4C.

Central, the ITV contractor for the Midlands, will pay the largest rise. Its subscriptions will be £22.6m compared with just under £18m last year.

Thames, the London weekday contractor, is, however, still the largest contributor to Channel 4 finances. The company will pay £25.23m in the financial year beginning in April, compared with £22.78m last year.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority confirmed yesterday that the ITV subscription for Channel 4 would be £129.1m — a 16.3 per cent increase on will get £31.9m an increase The Welsh fourth channel

The total basic subscriptions amount to 17.6 per cent of the ITV companies' total net advertising revenue in the year to the end of January.

The companies will also repay £13.5m in IBA loans advanced to help meet the costs of Channel 4 before transmissions began.

The subscriptions for the two fourth channels are to meet programme costs.

New Woolwich high-rate account

By MARGARET HUGHES

BUILDING SOCIETIES hit by a sharp fall in the inflow of funds this month, seem set for a new interest rate battle in their bid to attract more deposits.

The Woolwich Building Society announced yesterday that on Monday it will launch an account which both provides instant access and pays more than the short-term notice accounts of its four main rivals.

The Prime Account will pay 9 per cent net of basic rate tax, equivalent to 12.88 per cent gross which will be paid annually.

A minimum investment of £500 will be required to open the account, but investors will be able to make penalty-free withdrawals on demand.

This account will replace the Woolwich's 7-days notice account, which will be paid annu.

The account offers a better deal than the Leeds Liquid Gold, which has been the market leader of the societies offered by the five leading societies. The Liquid Gold pays 8.75 per cent net of basic rate tax on balance of between £500 and £2,500 after which it too pays 9 per cent net

annually.

Yesterday the Woolwich's main rivals said that although they would continue to keep their rates under review, they had no immediate plans to raise their investment rates.

The £30,000 ceiling on holdings of building society accounts is expected to be dropped, possibly from the beginning of the next financial year. This would put building societies on a par with banks, which from April 6 will have to follow building societies practice of deducting tax at source at a composite rate (CRT) from depositors' income.

Warning to financial services groups

By JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

NEWLY-CREATED financial conglomerates in the City could face restrictions if they do not take conflicts of interest seriously, Mr David Hopkinson, chairman of M & G Investment Management, the unit trust group, has told the Society of Investment Analysts.

Mr Hopkinson, commenting on the Government's White Paper for the reform of the regulatory system in the financial services community said the proposals contained in docu-

ment "with all its quagmire of quangoes and self-regulatory authorities, is only the preliminary skirmishing in a much larger battle that is to come."

He said that in the U.S. the situation was entirely different. "They have a different tradition of caveat emptor, of legal interference and of active interest by Congress. These have all helped the U.S. to prevent the kind of conflicts of interest that arise when one institution is lending, giving corporate ad-

Motor insurance forecast to rise 6.5%

By ERIC SHORT

AN AVERAGE increase of 6.5 per cent this year in motor premium rates by the 10 leading UK insurance companies is forecast by stockbrokers Rowe and Pitman in its annual review of UK Motor Insurance.

Even so, Rowe and Pitman expects underwriting losses on

the motor accounts of these companies to rise further.

The review estimates that these 10 companies increased their motor premium rates by an average of 8.5 per cent in 1984. But because of the growing tendency of motorists to switch insurance companies

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NHS drug cuts 'will achieve only half intended saving'

By CARLA RAPOPORT

THE GOVERNMENT'S plans to restrict the number of drugs available under the NHS will achieve little more than half the intended savings, according to drug industry executives.

According to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary for Social Services, the Government should reap savings of £75m a year by restricting drug sales on the NHS for a number of minor ailments. Industry executives and analysts, however, say the savings will be £30m-£45m a year.

Mr Fowler this week announced a modified plan for restricting drug sales under the NHS following fierce criticism of his initial proposals aimed at saving £100m a year.

The modified list troubled the number of drugs which will be available from NHS doctors from April 1 for ailments ranging from flu to anxiety.

Mr Fowler also released an extensive "blacklist" of drugs

which will no longer be available from the NHS after April. This list, however, contains a number of products — such as aspirin and Dr Williams' Pink Pills — which do not account for a significant proportion of NHS drug sales.

Many UK drug companies were breathing a bit easier yesterday after the publication of the new lists. Most said they doubted that the Government could save anywhere near £75m.

Wyeth International, a division of American Home Products, said: "The modified list will have a major effect on a major part of our business but we are a lot better off than we were two days ago when we were looking at the prospect of having no business in the UK."

The country's bestselling pain reliever, Distalgesic, made by Eli Lilly, is on the blacklist. Its sales are not likely to be severely hurt in the short term however, because no direct generic equivalent exists. If doctors write a prescription for the chemical equivalent of Distalgesic, their patients will get the Lilly product. NHS doctors will not be able to write a prescription for Distalgesic by name, however.

Dr John Griffin, director of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry said yesterday: "It's a pig's ear."

He estimated that the Government would save only £20m-£35m on the modified list.

Referring to Distalgesic, Mr Peter Lamey of the APBI said: "You've got cases where the patient can have it, the pharmacist can dispense it, but doctors can't write a prescription for it."

"You can't increase your allowable list of drugs by more than 200 per cent and have your savings decrease by only 25 per cent."

The Government could still increase its level of savings in

two ways. One would be to increase the therapeutic areas covered by the limited list of drugs. A number of companies said that the new blacklist already included some drugs which did not fall into any of the seven categories of minor illnesses covered by the restricted list. These extra drugs include Nicorette, the anti-smoking aid; Mucolene, which clears mucus in the respiratory tract; Optimax, an anti-depressant; and a number of skin care products.

The Government could claw back extra savings through its Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme which monitors the amount of profits companies make on their NHS sales.

This would affect those companies who stand to benefit from the restricted list. Most believe that NHS doctors will not reduce the number of prescriptions they write because of the new restrictions but will merely

switch patients to the allowable products. The manufacturers of these products will become "mini-monopolies," according to Dr Griffin, thus earning higher-than-average profits. The Government may seek to recoup these profits through tightening the PPRS.

Examples of drugs to be eliminated from NHS prescribing	
	Estimated UK sales
Hoffman-La Roche	
Mozodon	£6m
Valium	£5m
Lidium	£2m
Dalmane	£7m
Warner-Lambert	
Benlylin	£9m
Examples of drugs reviewed from original proposals	
Reckitt & Colman	
Gaviscon (antacid)	£6m
Fybrogel (laxative)	£2m
Riker Laboratories	
Dorbanex (laxative)	£3m

NUT ordered to stop Solihull action

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Union of Teachers was yesterday ordered by a High Court judge to call off disruptive action short of a strike by teachers at schools in Solihull.

Mr Justice Warner said that Solihull Council had an arguable case that the union was unlawfully inducing breaches of the teachers' employment contracts. If an injunction was not granted until the issue could be ruled on at a full trial the council would suffer detriment, through the harm done to schoolchildren and their education.

The only effect of an injunction on the union would be that it would have to choose between taking its pay dispute with the council to arbitration, or holding a ballot under the 1984 Trade Union Act to try to legitimise its actions.

The judge ordered the disruption to be called off by noon on Monday.

Afterwards Mr Doug McAvey, the NUT's deputy secretary, said that the teachers would get ballot forms on Monday. He was confident of winning the ballot.

Solihull was also granted an injunction ordering the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers to call off a half-day strike of its members in Solihull due to take place—without the members having been balloted—on Tuesday. The NAS/UTW was not represented in court.

The Conservative-controlled Solihull council is the first local authority to take the unions to court over threats of strikes and other action called in protest against a 4 per cent pay offer for teachers in England and Wales.

NUT teachers in Solihull are refusing to cover for absent colleagues, to supervise and administer school dinners, to supervise lunchtime sport,

musical or dramatic events, or to attend staff and parent consultation meetings outside school hours.

The union argued that those functions were voluntary and not part of the teachers' contractual duties. For this reason the union was not inducing breaches of contract.

Solihull contended that the duties were either contractual or were performed by the teachers by custom and practice. The teachers should have been balloted on the action—as has been on plans for a three-day strike.

Mr Alexander Irvine, QC, for Solihull, said that the teachers' action was causing considerable disruption in the schools.

As a result of the action, which had begun on February 16, children at 13 of the 18 secondary schools had been sent home and all schools had been affected in some way.

He said that the council did not accept that the strike ballot had been carried out in compliance with the 1984 Act.

Mr Andrew Hillier, for the NUT, said that Solihull could not seriously hope to win at the trial on the issues concerning lunchtime supervision and out-of-hours meetings. He conceded, however, that the union would have a more difficult hurdle on the issue of covering for absent colleagues.

The judge said the NUT had argued that an injunction would not stop the disruption for more than a couple of days because there would be a ballot and a vote in favour of continuing the action.

That, the judge said, assumed that because the nine of Solihull's 50 or so schools which had been balloted on a strike had voted in favour, the same result would flow from a ballot on disruptive action.

"I am not prepared to make that assumption," he said.

Electricians 'will fight TUC' over ballot cash

By Our Labour Staff

THE ELECTRICIANS' union said yesterday it would resist in the courts any TUC attempt to expel it for using government money to finance postal ballots.

The TUC General Council has warned the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers of disciplinary measures, leading to possible expulsion, if they accept government money for union postal ballots, in defiance of TUC policy.

Writing in Contact, the Electricians' Union journal, Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary, said: "We will not be cajoled, intimidated or bullied into submission."

"We will use every possible within the fold despite all our doubts about the TUC's effectiveness and ability to match the challenge of our times."

"We will use every possible forum to promote our case and will use the courts, in the last resort, if the movement denies us natural justice."

"Those who seek to exclude us had better recognise the dangers if we fail in our efforts."

Mr Hammond admitted his union would face difficulties if outside the TUC. He also warned other unions that workers, "desperately unhappy at being steamrollered into militancy," might switch membership to his union.

He said: "It may be difficult, but it is not too late for the TUC to think again. It will be foolishly irresponsible not to do so."

Anyone would think the TUC had troubles enough "without needlessly courting fresh disaster."

The real issue was the authority of the TUC General Council, Mr Hammond said: "I told the TUC candidly and openly that our members elected our executive council to be responsible for the finance and government of the EETPU—not the General Council."

"I asked whether the miners' union for instance, would bow to a TUC decision that its activities, its dispute, were detrimental to the trade union movement's interest."

"The miners would tell the TUC to 'get lost'."

The EETPU has applied to the government for nearly £200,000 and the AUEW for around £1m, backdated to 1980, for union ballots.

Civil Service union's secretary to retire

BY DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR STAFF

MR GERRY GILLMAN, general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, has said he wants to take early retirement later this year.

His decision had been expected to enable the union to have a candidate in the run-off for the general secretaryship of the union which will be formed by the proposed merger of the SCPS with the Civil and Public Services Association.

Mr Gillman, 57, has worked for the SCPS since 1953 and has been general secretary since 1979. The union has 96,000 members, concentrated among all but the most senior administrative grades of the Civil Service.

The planned merger with the CPSSA, which represents lower-grade staff, would create a dominant civil service union with a membership of about 240,000.

Mr Gillman gave formal notice of his intention to this week's meeting of the society's executive council. He is not expected to leave the union until the end of November, but the executive is likely to select his successor next month.

As Mr Campbell Christie, Mr Gillman's deputy, is set to become the next general secretary of the Scottish TUC, the clear favourite for the top job in the union is Mr Leslie Christie, his brother and an assistant general secretary of the union.

Mr Gillman had been due to retire in 1987. However, the terms of the planned merger with the CPSSA envisage a run-off in 1989 between the general secretaries of the two unions. Provided the individuals were installed by January 1, 1988, when the merger is due to take effect.

For the SCPS to put up a candidate against Mr Alistair Graham, the CPSSA general secretary, it has to have a new general secretary in office at the turn of the year.

All this presupposes that the merger package will be approved by the annual conferences of each union in May and by membership ballots in the autumn. Mr Gillman, a strong supporter of the merger, has taken the view that society members should be clear that they would be represented in the proposed 1989 leadership contest.

The chief threat to the merger going ahead is likely to come from an unholy alliance of Right-wingers and Militant Tendency supporters at the CPSSA's annual conference.

They are expected to put up a large number of amendments to the merger package in an attempt to delay the autumn ballots. However, the CPSSA leadership will move to thwart this by proposing a straight vote on the package before any amendments are discussed.

Ferry crews strike in hospital protest

By Brian Groom, Labour Staff

STRIKES by ferry crews at Dover, Folkestone and Felixstowe caused delays to passengers travelling to the Continent yesterday.

The stoppages were part of a "day of action" against the proposed closure of the Drednought National Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, south-east London.

A 13-hour strike at Dover halted Townsend Thoresen sailings to Zeebrugge, Calais and Boulogne, apart from one sailing to Zeebrugge.

Sealink's UK flag services between Dover and Calais and Folkestone and Boulogne were stopped, though most passengers eventually got away on hovercraft or on services operated by Sealink's French partner, SNCM.

At Felixstowe, Thoresen, had to cancel two ferries to Zeebrugge, while two freight ships bound for Rotterdam also remained idle.

Unions call for R & D strategy

By David Brindle, Labour Staff

THREE UNIONS, which have banded together as Alliance for Science, have called on the Government to adopt a research and development strategy.

The unions—the Association of University Teachers, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs—say a science minister should be appointed to investigate funding and plan long-term objectives.

They also propose a National Economic Development Council for research and development. The unions, which represent 100,000 workers in research and development, set out their case in the alliance's second pamphlet, *The Case for a Research and Development Strategy*.

Computer disk move SEAGATE Technology, the manufacturer of computer disk drives, has signed a lease with East Kilbride Development Corporation for a factory in East Kilbride's Kelvin Park industrial estate near Glasgow. It will be used for service and testing operations.

Coal blockade continues

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

THE BLOCKADE on coal shipments from the north east to power stations in the south east remained in force last night, as seamen on the *Steyning* at Blyth, Northumberland, refused to sail even though it had been loaded with coal.

The National Coal Board and Stephenson Clarke, the shipowners, remain hopeful of persuading the seamen to reverse their decision after the weekend but it is by no means certain this will happen.

By that time loading should be completed on two other vessels, the *Pulborough* at Blyth and the *Wilmington* at Jarrow.

If the main objection of the *Steyning* crew is not to be seen to be the first to break the blockade, then it is possible that all three could sail at once.

Members of the National Union of Seamen have been refusing to sail in spite of the withdrawal of official instructions to black the shipments, following a High Court injunction issued last Monday.

No coal has been shipped from Durham and Northumberland to power stations in the south-east since the miners' strike began 11 months ago.

GCHQ departures

A TOTAL of 73 scientific and technical officers resigned from Government Communications Headquarters last year after each receiving £1,000 for loss of trade union rights, the Government said yesterday.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, Liberal

MP for Yeovil, had asked in a written Commons question how many of the 83 scientific and technical who resigned for reasons "other than retirement, transfer to another department, maternity or marriage" had taken the compensation.

Ford's worker involvement plan faces delay

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

FORD'S PLAN to introduce a programme of employee involvement for its 13,000 UK white-collar staff, similar to that started six years ago for its U.S. workers has run into a major hold-up.

A national framework agreement has been reached with the three unions involved, but branches at the Dagenham body and assembly plant, Essex, have put forward a formidable set of preconditions to be met before they agree to participate.

This comes amid growing evidence that the employee involvement programme, though being approached very cautiously by Ford, could form a crucial part of the company's long-term strategy to improve labour efficiency.

Unions are convinced that Ford will strive to make the experiment succeed in white-collar areas over the next two years, in the hope that manual workers will become attracted to the idea and overcome resistance from their shop stewards.

The programme, which is voluntary, is likely to involve the creation of participation groups of 10 to 12 workers. According to the national agreement they will take part in the "managerial process" including planning, setting goals, problem-solving and decision-making.

At Dagenham, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs has demanded disclosure of the five and 10-year business plans for the plant; a written guarantee of no compulsory redundancies; a pledge that staff will not be redeployed elsewhere; agreement that only union members can be staff representatives on employee involvement steering committees.

Unions say this has held up the plant-level follow-up to the national agreement, which would have included presentations to staff and the setting up of local committees. Talks on the problem are expected, but it has set back managers' hopes of getting the programme under way by next month.

The success of the scheme could determine the outcome of an internal debate among Ford managers about the best way to tackle the problem of labour flexibility among manual workers. This is still an issue in spite of a cut in the manual workforce from 58,900 in 1979 to 38,400 now, and a reduction in white-collar staff from 17,600 to 13,800.

Some progress has been made in getting production workers to take responsibility for direct tasks such as self-certification of work, minor maintenance, and cleaning work areas. But other European plants tend to be less strike-prone, hit output targets more frequently, and are more lightly manned, and achieved earlier success in breaking down demarcation lines between craft and production workers.

The company appears to hope

that employee involvement could eventually lead to greater flexibility. But some managers, mainly at the Halewood and Dagenham plants, believe it is a foreign transplant which will not take root in the UK, and that the only route to greater efficiency will ultimately be to offer payments for it in conventional negotiations.

So far this view has not prevailed. Talks on altering the 17-year-old wage structure for manual workers have been going on for two years, but Ford has been resisting a union claim to move from five to three grades, and introduce allowances for production line workers and for others who acquire extra skills.

Senior managers fear that this would result in a general pay increase with no guarantee of higher productivity. But managers in the big assembly plants get frustrated because workers often resist changes to their responsibilities unless the wage structure is altered.

Ford began employee involvement for blue- and white-collar workers in the U.S. in 1979, after similar schemes at General Motors, and was installed at 45 locations within the first 18 months. It has produced considerable benefits for the company, but there have been some problems in the past two years and the United Auto Workers' Union—though formally in support—has become markedly less enthusiastic.

Mostly it takes the form of groups who tackle a wide range of issues of efficiency and working conditions, though in some plants it is little more than a glorified suggestion scheme.

Typical successes include a problem-solving team of machine operators at an engine plant in Michigan, who redesigned cylinder head milling machines to shut down automatically when their timing belts broke. This stopped breakdowns which could cost \$24,000 each in damaged parts and lost production.

There has been resistance to the scheme among skilled workers jealous of the craft privileges at the bigger plants, however. And the UAW's enthusiasm has cooled because it believes Ford has used employee involvement to weaken union organisation at some plants, for instance by enticing militants out of union office by offering them full-time jobs as employee involvement coordinators.

Ford has tried to spread employee involvement and seems pleased with the way it has been introduced in countries like Spain and Brazil. Unions say it has been less successful in West Germany, where the works councils already provided a forum for worker participation which gave the company the kind of flexibility it was looking for, without superimposing new systems.

Good planning is priceless—So how can we sell it for £395?



The Soviet approach to planning over the past half century or so has had a consistent problem. It doesn't make much allowance for the needs or methods of individual managers or consumers. But then it doesn't have to. The result has been a dismal record of forecasting inaccuracy and mismanagement. In mind you, if you know anyone who'd like to buy a few million left shoes, we could make a useful introduction.

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Which is precisely where most spreadsheet software falls down. Most of their Manuals make the latest Five Year Plan read like *The Wizard of Id*. Not that we want to knock the spreadsheet. After all, it is based on one of the oldest tools of management information—variable assumptions

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And, of course, most spreadsheet software is easy to use. Once you know how. All it requires is enough time and a willingness to do it their way. By memorising, or referring regularly to a manual that is only slightly less opaque than Pravda, you can perform theoretical work which would warm the heart of a Commissar. Of course, it might be a bit of a mystery to your colleagues. But in a planned economy you don't need to worry about bringing people with you.

We think you'll find the switch from spreadsheet software to FT.Moneywise much like the shift from a slide-rule to a calculator. It does the job more easily, with less mystery and faster, not merely in calculation, but right from the moment you start to think about the numbers all the way through to the report you will want to produce.

The reason is simple. FT.Moneywise

was produced by managers for managers. And who would understand the needs of managers better than the Financial Times? Whether or not you have spreadsheet skills, you can perform the same magic. But because the program helps at every stage, you don't need that encyclopaedia-like document at your elbow. Better yet, your colleagues will understand every step in your thinking. Because not only does FT.Moneywise print out a full management report to boardroom quality, it does it in a format management understands—from the table of contents to dramatically simple graphics and an appendix summarising the assumptions on which each calculation was made.

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Please send to: James Loch, Moneywise Software Ltd., 226 Sheen Lane, London SW14 8LD Telephone: 01-878 8555.

Bank of Scotland

BANK OF SCOTLAND Account Details

As at close of business 14 Jan 85

Account No 00428407

Balance	125.84
Today's items	75.43
Fund transfers pending	65.00
Keycard withdr pending	30.00
Interest accrued	-1.12
Charges accrued	0.50
Overdraft limit	200.00
Cash available from Keycard	70.00

Key 1 Account Index 2 Statement
3 Today's Items 4 Finish

UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

Bank of Scotland

Make Bill Payments

Mandate No 104

To 8 of 5 Visa Card

Reference 482987302017

Account to be debited on 04th February 1985

Amount £174.26

Bill paid by 06th February 1985

No changes after 30th January 1985

Key 1 To confirm this payment
2 To change this payment
3 To cancel this payment

PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Bank of Scotland

BANK OF SCOTLAND Inter-account transfers

Details

From Current Account No 00428407
Grant J A Pers Acc
Home Banking Centre

To Investment Account No 02037184
Grant J A
Home Banking Centre

Amount £100.00

Key 1 To send 2 Not to send
3 Change Amount 4 Change Amount
5 Change both

INTER-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS.

Bank of Scotland

Standing Order Mandates Held

To	Next Due	Until	Amount
Upland Electricity Monthly	30Jan85	30Nov85	32.40
British Gas Monthly	06Feb85	06Sep85	31.15
Midshires Council Monthly	01Feb85	01Mar85	57.81
General Life Ass Monthly	31Jan85	N.A.	22.45
United Auto Ins Quarterly	15Mar85	15Jun85	26.95

Key 7 More Mandates
9 Finish

STANDING ORDER DETAILS.

Bank of Scotland

A/C No 00428407 Statement

Date	Details	Amount	Balance
11Jan85	398410	-45.00	226.97
11Jan85	P B 011	8.75	235.72
12Jan85	398412	-27.42	208.30
13Jan85	Keycard 90375603	-100.00	108.30
14Jan85	Bank Giro Credit	47.52	155.82
14Jan85	398413	-29.98	125.84

Key 7 Earlier Items
9 Finish

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Bank of Scotland

BANK OF SCOTLAND Cash Management

148 High St Southampton

ACCOUNT 00107107 CURRENCY: STG

Ledger position on first lines
Debitments expiring and cleared
position on second lines

Date	Debit	Credit	Balance
14Jan1985	1,456	504	1,733
15Jan1985	-389	750	2,094
16Jan1985	0	1,048	1,117
17Jan1985	0	2,884	2,094
17Jan1985	0	0	2,094
17Jan1985	0	327	2,094

Key 7 Finish

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FT23/2

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Tiptoeing towards Mr Lawson

THE JOBBERS had their red pens out again yesterday as they encountered a modest amount of selling in the last day of the account but by and large the equity market is softly tiptoeing towards the Budget next month.

A subdued level of trading is the norm around this time of year as the City awaits the Chancellor's statement and news from the corporate sector remains at a low ebb. Equity prices are less than 5 per cent below the peak of a month ago and for the present there seems little happening on the domestic scene to prompt a movement either way. Without a lead from Wall Street prices will probably continue to move sideways for the time being, perhaps edging down a little further.

The electricals and electronics sectors managed to fare reasonably well this week having fallen 14 and 20 per cent respectively from their highs by last Saturday. After the depressing news from the likes of Racal and STC, Plessey managed to report figures that lived up to the City's hopes—admittedly expectations had been trimmed back in recent weeks—and the rescue package for Acorn was unveiled.

Trafalgar's rights

Unlike STC's poorly timed rights issue last week, Trafalgar could not have judged the market much better to launch

LONDON
ONLOOKER

its first rights issue for a decade. The group is asking its shareholders for £175m through a one-for-five issue at 315p a share. It surprised the analysts at first but once the full implications of the issue had sunk in it looked like the right thing at the right time.

To justify the issue Trafalgar paraded a string of separate news items underlining the need for a fresh capital injection including a hostile £37m cash bid for Haden, the mechanical and electrical engineering company.

Trafalgar was also able to tell its shareholders that it was tending to buy the Yarrow shipyard, and competing in a consortium bidding for a contract to build a second Bosphorus bridge and super-highway in Turkey. There was also a potentially significant gas find in the North Sea. Sir Nigel Brookes is nothing if not active.

All in all Trafalgar is looking at an investment programme for the coming year which could amount to £250m. A commitment of that size could put the group's cash flow under some pressure but it could always borrow. So there is still a small

question mark over Trafalgar's ultimate intentions for the money it is raising.

It is not beyond the realms of possibility that the group is taking advantage of the fashionable image of conglomerates and a share price that has significantly outperformed the market over the last year to ready its balance sheet for a large acquisition. P and O is, of course, no longer a contender but that does not mean Sir Nigel is happy to sit back and work with the clay already in his hands. And while he may well have to pay more than £37m for Haden to win control that is not going to measure up as a big acquisition.

Rescue for Acorn

Acorn Computers has found a white knight in the shape of Olivetti, the Italian computer and office equipment manufacturer. Though the full sorry story of Acorn's finances are yet to be revealed, the peep that the market got of its trading performance in the six months to December last gave some indication of how close the company was to collapse.

The failure of the Electron in the fiercely competitive home computer market (in spite of drastic price cuts) combined with disastrous forays into the U.S. and West Germany were the company's undoing. Within a year Acorn has evolved from

a "glamour stock" to a "penny stock".

After stock write-downs on a small mountain of Electrons and the costs of withdrawing from the States and Germany, there was a loss of nearly £11m in the half-year. In the previous 12 months Acorn had made £10.3m pre-tax and seemingly could not put a foot wrong.

Now stunned shareholders are being asked to support a mammoth rights issue on the basis of 27 new shares for every 20 held. The price is just 8p a share, which compares with the suspension price of 28p and the peak of 183p last year. Messrs Chris Curry and Herman Hauser, who founded the company, will not be taking up their shares. Olivetti will buy those giving it 49.3 per cent of the equity for just £10.4m. The two directors have taken the investment to over 50 per cent.

Deals have been struck with suppliers, bankers have offered support, at least in principle, and—most important of all—the management has been strengthened: there is a new chairman and the search is on for a managing director with experience in the industry.

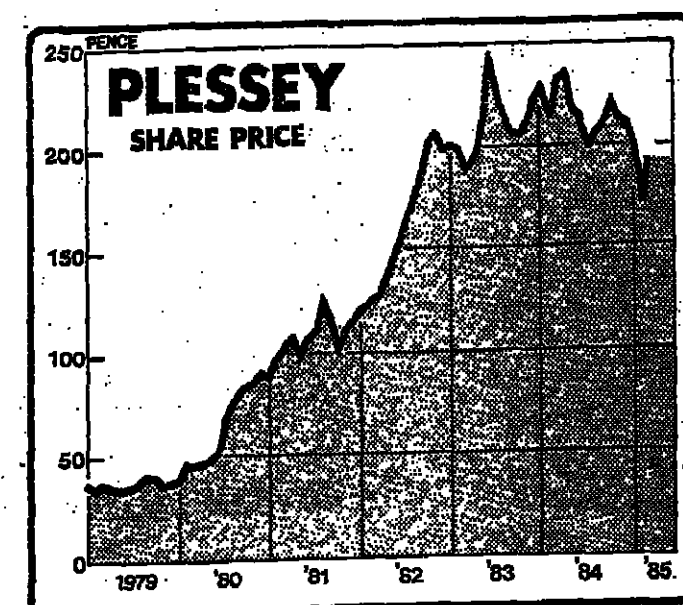
Nevertheless the future is still far from bright. A return to... prosperity hinges on Olivetti's ability to use its international marketing network to establish the company's products in the U.S. and Europe. The result cannot be regarded as a foregone conclusion.

Defensive move

Lord Matthews, chairman of Fleet Holdings, confirmed on Monday that his company is talking to Aitken Hume, the financial services company, with the intention of finding "a mutually beneficial association." The market had been expecting Fleet to bid for some days.

The move was immediately branded as defensive. Fleet has spent half its short life as a public company keeping a close eye on its share register. In the last eighteen months shareholders have included Robert Holmes & Court, Robert Maxwell and now United Newspapers has 20.7 per cent of the shares. Even though its market capitalisation of £180m is £50m below that of Fleet the market believes a bid could emerge eventually.

The attractions of Fleet to United, or any other bidder come to that, is that the share



prices does not really do justice to the group despite the rise of more than a third since the beginning of the year. Fleet's stake in Reuters is worth around £115m and the Morgan Grampian publishing group could be valued at, say, £25m as a free standing business. That leaves the rest of the group, dominated by the Daily and Sunday Express and the Daily Star, valued at £40m.

If Fleet gobbles up Aitken—currently valued at over £50m—it might just discourage predators. It would put Fleet well out of United's league for a while and, of course, any acquisition for shares would dilute the United holding making it less of a threat.

A move into financial services makes some sense—Fleet would not be the first in the industry to go that way—and there are vague connections between the two companies. Aitken Hume is run by cousins Jonathan and Timothy Aitken, relatives of the late Lord Beaverbrook. But dynamic implications apart the Aitkens and Lord Matthews have built up a rapport through Tim Aitken's rescue of TV-am.

Lord Matthews may feel comfortable rubbing shoulders with Lord Beaverbrook's descendants but that does not necessarily make Aitken Hume an ideal partner for Fleet.

Steady Plessey

To say that the market was a little apprehensive ahead of Plessey's third quarter figures is to put it mildly. Once proud bulls of the electrical sector have been served up with a diet of a surprise rights issue from STC and a forecast of lower profits from Racal. By the time Plessey came round this week analysts were saying that they would be happy if the group could achieve unchanged profits.

The figures, when they arrived on Thursday, were greeted with some relief. Profits in the third quarter were marginally down at £40.7m leaving the full nine months at £121.24m against £124.6m but there were no nasty shocks to upset the market.

The main reason for the setback is the drop in profits from the telecommunications division. Delays in commissioning System X by British Telecom resulted in a £4.25m loss from that particular activity.

System X should be profitable next year, however. Plessey has an order book of £210m and at long last the group has moved into full production. Output should rise rapidly over the next couple of years. Export orders are being sought but so far the System X exchanges are shackled to Telecom. That should ensure that there is a bedrock of orders for a decade or more but Telecom as a private company enjoying a monopoly position is not going to let System X turn into a crock of gold for Plessey.

In the U.S. Stromberg-Carlson is still making losses. The opportunities in America now that the telecommunications market has been deregulated are enormous but Plessey, through Stromberg, is in there fighting with all and sundry who can also see the rich rewards. There is no guarantee that Plessey will be rewarded for its efforts.

In the nine months to the end of December its cash resources have been depleted by £200m and it will be another six to nine months before the flow is reversed according to the company. Despite assurances to the contrary the market is bound to suspect that a rights issue will eventually emerge.

Terry Garrett.

Volcker's shadow

NEW YORK
TERRY DODSWORTH

THE LONG, foreboding shadow of Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, fell once again over the U.S. equity market this week. It was not quite baleful enough to blot out the early winter lustre altogether, but it was sufficiently ominous to take a lot of the sparkle from share prices as attention switched back to the credit markets.

Appearing in Washington at the Senate Banking Committee, Mr Volcker, as so often before, only articulated what many analysts had already claimed to detect—that the Fed was no longer deliberately encouraging a fall in short term interest rates.

This move, he added, was not the equivalent of a tightening of monetary policy. But his admission that the Fed was being more cautious in providing funds to the banking system was enough to suggest to the markets that the main direction of rates for some time will be up. They duly rose on Wednesday, the day of his testimony, and then leapt ahead on Thursday, three months Treasury Bills, for example, moved from around 8.18 on Tuesday to 8.63 on Thursday, putting them back to the levels of last November.

On Thursday, the market also had to absorb a further surprising item from Washington, when the Commerce Department announced yet another revision of fourth quarter GNP growth to put it at 4.9 per cent, a full percentage point higher than the last reported figure.

As if these two items of news had not done enough to underline the constraints upon American business, Mr Volcker had another little home truth to offer U.S. investors when he stressed the problems associated with the high deficit, the lofty rates need to finance it, and the problem of living with the newly-minted super-dollar.

This is not an entirely new homily from the Fed chairman, but in response the dollar shied through more record levels on Thursday, endorsing the idea that it is responsive to high rates in the U.S. and this drew attention once again to the difficulties experienced by American exporters or multinationals whose overseas profits are being steadily eroded in dollar terms.

There was little wonder that in this atmosphere the major stock indices began to show signs of running out of breath.

after their rapid New Year run up. On the Big Board, the Dow Jones Industrial Average continued to back off from the high fence whenever it came close to the 1,300 barrier, and on Tuesday, after the one-day George Washington holiday, New York Stock Exchange volume fell below 100 shares for the first time in 25 consecutive trading days.

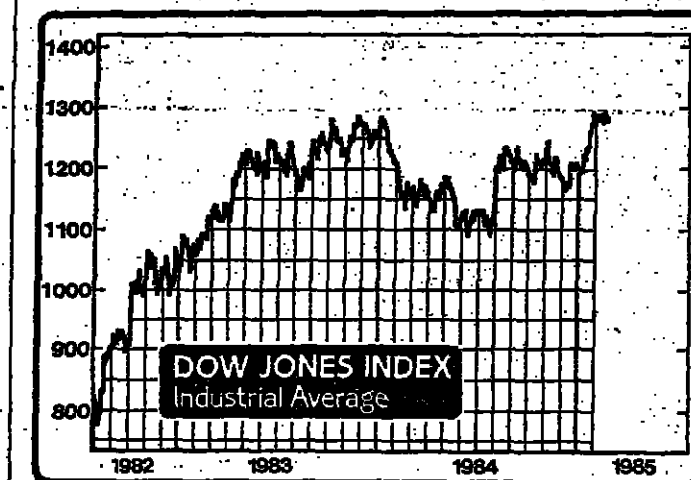
At the same time, the broader market measures, which had led the DJIA up in January, have also begun to mark time. Both the S & P 500 and the NYSE composite of all stocks have slipped back this week.

Even the takeover scene, though lively enough, has not had the sort of sure-fire sensation which has the speculators rushing into the fray. In the Phillips Petroleum saga, interest this week was concentrated on Mr Carl Icahn and the question of his ability to raise the cash for a successful bid. But though a fascinating battle, starting some of the slickest operators on Wall Street, the Phillips struggle has become so complex that even fund managers are wandering around asking what it all means, and a languishing share price has indicated that no one is convinced that anyone has the answer.

Other bids were launched this week by National Can, which effectively wants to buy itself for its workforce through an employee stock ownership plan—a device which, now seems set to become a fashionable Wall Street tactic—and by Chase-Bronx-Pond, which is planning a \$1.35bn takeover of Stauffer Chemical.

The market liked the first offer, which gives shareholders something to look forward to after a previous failed takeover offer, but it did not think much of the latter. It marked down Chase-Bronx-Pond shares by 3 1/2 to 3 3/4, despite its reputation as a relatively successful acquirer and diversifier.

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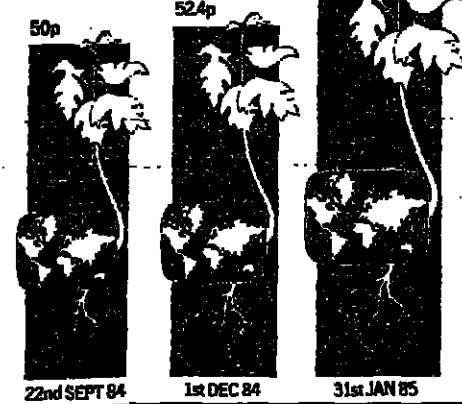
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Flair pays off again

THE FLOTATION of Osborne and Little this week gave USM investors their latest chance to put a price on flair. And, not for the first time in recent months, they valued this intangible, yet precious, commodity very highly. The shares of this up-market wallpaper manufacturer, which seemed to many observers fully valued at the issue price of 125p, shot to a 66p premium when dealings began on Monday.

They climbed still higher during the week to 215p, where they trade on a multiple of 34 times the earnings forecast in the prospectus. An astonished Sir Peter Osborne, joint founder, chairman and managing director of a company now capitalised at £14.5m, says: "I am surprised at how much the shares have taken off. It reflects a widespread admiration of Osborne and Little."

Significantly, the greatest demand for the 24 per cent of the equity that Sir Peter and joint-founder Antony Little have released on to the market came not from private investors but from financial institutions—buyers who were taking up the shares for their portfolios and not for a quick profit.

Clearly, the stock market still is thoroughly convinced of the appeal of design-oriented companies: consumers are seen to be more willing than before to pay a premium for good design, be it in home furnishings or anything else. Similarly, companies are spending more than ever on advertising and public relations services.

Recent USM announcements are firm evidence of how rapidly companies can grow in the heady design market. Last week, Craton Lodge and Knight Group, an advertising agency specialising in the development of new products (among them, Cadbury's Wispa chocolate bar), revealed profits for the year to the end of September up 122 per cent to £495,000 pre-tax.

This week, two companies that are about to merge—Addison Communications, a public relations group, and Michael Page Partnership, an executive recruitment agency—announced annual profit increases of 131 per cent and 123 per cent respectively.

Similarly, Osborne and Little is forecasting pre-tax profits for the year to the end of next month of not less than £735,000—up 141 per cent. These are phenomenal figures, but they reflect the rate of growth expected of com-

panies trading at prospective multiples of 30 times and more.

The difficulty for investors is picking the winners among these generally young and rapidly-changing companies. The rates of growth imply that the differences between the best and worst businesses are likely to emerge fairly quickly.

In the short term, this often means that the shares of these companies are very volatile, particularly as in most cases only a small part of the equity has been released on to the market. As an example, the shares of the Good Relations advertising and public relations agency, a listed company fell 80p to 200p after it announced it planned to move its City office out of the Square Mile (subsequently called off after the resignation of six staff).

The price movement might seem to be out of all proportion to the effect of six resignations on a group employing 170 people, but it indicates how the slightest upset can colour the market's view of a highly-rated stock.

The incident also highlights a long-term problem shared by other "people" businesses—how to motivate skilled staff who can so easily go and work elsewhere.

The problem is particularly acute when companies are growing very rapidly—either by recruiting new staff or by acquisition. Only this week, a recent USM graduate to the full market, the Wright Collins Rutherford Scott advertising agency, announced plans to buy an unquoted public relations company, Bliss Lancaster.

It seems probable that the eventual success of today's crop of design company new issues will depend on whether they can expand without harming their initial reputations for creativity and flair.

This is the difficult trick which Charles and Maurice Saatchi and Sir Terence Conran have managed so well. But it is one that has defeated many likely-looking competitors along the way.

Stefan Wagstyl

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YOUR SAVING AND INVESTMENTS

Into the shelters, friends

CLIVE WOLMAN reports on some important matters for a taxpayer to ponder before April 5.

IT HAS taken its time to arrive. But this year, the more sophisticated circles of English society have adopted an American seasonal fashion, just as it has come under threat back home. To introduce into polite conversation a discussion of this year's best tax shelters would still be regarded as, at best, avant-garde on this side of the Atlantic. But thanks to the recent Government initiatives, the salesmen report an upsurge of interest which will allow income to be sheltered from the Inland Revenue if made before April 5, the end of the tax year.

In the U.S., conversations about tax shelters among the well-informed cover everything from tales of money when investing in cattle feed or pornographic films to the publication details of art books and Bibles. The U.S. Treasury has however recently published proposals which would drastically reduce the opportunities. Although the choice of tax shelters is more limited in the UK, the Government has been moving in the opposite direction. In the 1970s, tax shelter planning was limited to usually secretive and highly complicated tax avoidance schemes. But now the activity has come out into the open. "The search for tax shelters in March is becoming as much a seasonal event as the hunt for grouse in August," says Geoffrey Pointon, of financial consultants Pointon York.

You don't have to be rich to make use of tax shelters. Even a basic rate taxpayer should keep a few cards up his sleeve. But the higher the rate of tax you face, the wider the range of potentially profitable investments. To see how a tax shelter works, consider the tax you pay on your income. If your marginal rate is 50 per cent, the taxman will take £500 from every £1,000 you earn. With a tax shelter, he will do the opposite. For every £1,000 you "lose" in the shelter, he will give you back £500.

The tricky bit comes when you want to extract your £1,000 investment from the shelter. The real attraction of the shelter will be if it allows you to do so without having to hand back once more the £500.

The most important reform introduced by the Government was its launch of the Business Expansion Scheme in 1983. This allows you to invest in almost

any incorporated business and to offset the full investment against your taxable income up to a maximum of £40,000 per year. Chief exclusions are investment in Stock Exchange quoted companies, financial services, farming and property dealing companies, and family companies.

Provided you can hold on for at least five years, you will also be able to extract your investment free of income tax. Your only assessment will be for capital gains tax on any rise in the share price after adjusting for inflation.

This assumes you will actually be able to sell out your investment but if you are holding shares in an unquoted company, you may have difficulties in finding a buyer even if the company has been performing well. There are two ways of securing out some of the risks of investing in small unquoted companies. One is by investing through a managed fund which will spread your risks across a variety of companies. One possible drawback at this stage in the tax year in placing money with a managed fund is that the managers may not succeed in finding sufficient investment outlets for all the money by April 5. In that situation, you will not receive all the tax relief you had planned on.

There is little doubt also that the pressure on managers to find suitable unquoted companies quickly last year led to many poor decisions and there must be the same risks this time round. Only about half the money that has flowed into companies under the Business Expansion Scheme over the last 12 months has gone into funds. If you have sufficient resources, you can spread the risks yourself across a range of companies.

Alternatively, or in addition, you can choose just one or two companies which represent low risk investments because of the value of physical assets behind them. Last year, farming companies were all the rage, until BES support for them was withdrawn in the Budget. This year, property development companies have led the popularity stakes, followed by wine companies. Only yesterday, Limehill, a property development company concentrating on the London Docklands area, was launched under the BES. Nevertheless, any form of equity investment in small companies is highly risky as the collapse of property companies

in 1974-75 illustrated. You should probably rule out BES investments unless you were considering an investment in a small company on other grounds, or unless you can get the taxman to shoulder at least half the costs, as the adjacent decision tree suggests.

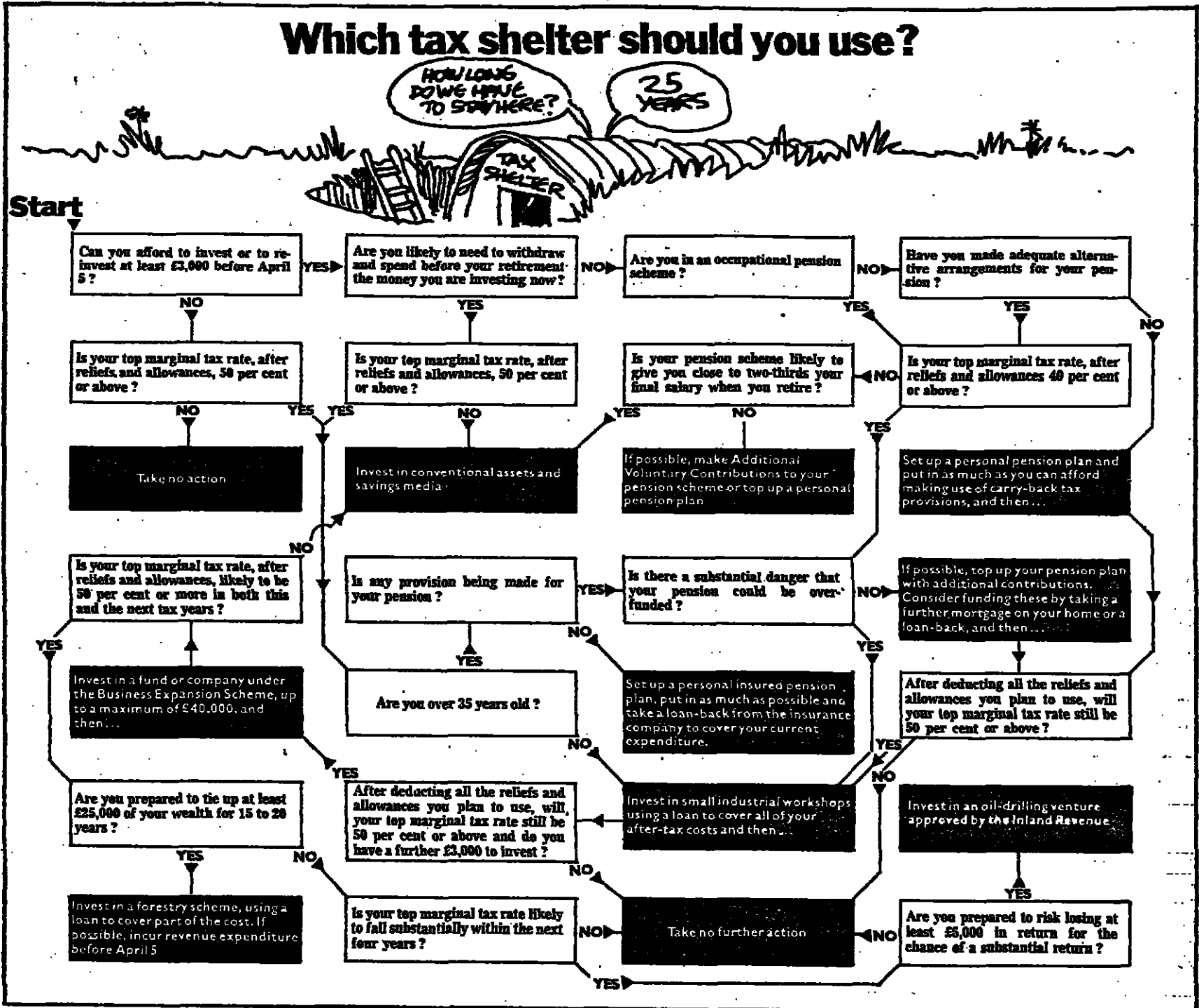
Be careful when calculating your top marginal rate of tax to deduct from your taxable income all the other reliefs and allowances which you would use anyway. These cover your personal allowances including the age allowance, mortgage interest relief, conventional charitable contributions and, above all, pension fund contributions.

In fact, the pension fund tax shelter is the first one to which all taxpayers should turn, whatever their marginal rate. The Social Security Bill currently going through Parliament and the Government's personal pension proposals have highlighted the attractions of pension fund investment. More important, they have already led to greater opportunities for the individual employee and the self-employed to start up and adjust pension contributions.

The detailed problems of how to make use of pension tax relief will be discussed next week. All taxpayers on marginal rates of 50 per cent or more, should look closely at the small industrial workshops tax shelter which will be withdrawn permanently on March 28. This is probably the most attractive of all tax shelters for high income earners because it is possible to borrow all the money that is needed to invest — and get tax relief on the interest.

Also, the risks are low — in fact one scheme, the Property Enterprise Trusts, is designed to eliminate nearly all the major risks. Under this, you invest at least £25,000 gross in what is effectively a unit trust (although not under Government supervision). It then buys the freeholds or long leaseholds of groups of small industrial workshops. These are let to local authorities or to tenants on long leases. The tenants are responsible for the ultimate occupants.

Because your properties will be spread across different locations and because the local authority guarantees the rental payments, repair work and general maintenance, the risks are small. You will be given tax relief at your top marginal rate on the building cost. Your outstanding debt can, and in fact should, be met by a loan. In the early



years, the rental payments will cover, or come close to covering, your interest payments on the loan. But once the rent reviews start, you will be ahead.

Strictly speaking you should have to wait for 25 years before selling the property. Otherwise you will suffer a claw-back of the tax relief on your investment.

But in practice, this limitation is easily side-stepped by carving out an ultra-long lease from

your freehold (or long leasehold) interest and selling that. You will then be left with a reversion of negligible value. The only risks are that the Government could close this loophole with retrospective effect or that the members of your trust syndicate will not agree on a sale date.

For those seeking a potentially higher return from this type of scheme in exchange for higher risks, Pointon York is offering small workshops in

Milton Keynes for direct investment. The cost of each workshop is £61,250 gross and loan facilities are available to cover your net cost. But note that you get no tax relief on the land cost and there is no local authority guarantee.

The two other tax shelters mentioned in the decision tree demand fast footwork on your part if you are to be granted tax relief in the current tax year. Investment in forestry was discussed in detail on these pages on January 12.

Note however that to get income tax relief for 1984-85, you will need to acquire the land and incur planting costs and other revenue expenditure under tax schedule D by April 5.

U.S. oil drilling tax shelters first became available to UK investors under an Inland Revenue concession made a year ago. Alamo, the West Virginia-based oil and gas producer which is quoted on the U.S. and UK stock markets, has organised with Upfields Develop-

ment of Reigate, Surrey, a set of oil and gas drilling partnerships which are open until the end of the month.

A run of bad luck could mean the loss of all your investment. But if commercially viable amounts of oil or gas are discovered, your returns will be taxed at your top marginal rate in the year they accrue.

Some telephone numbers: Limehill: 01-660 9222; Property Enterprise Trusts: 01-486 8394; U.S. and UK stock markets, see Pointon York: 01631 3015; Upfields Development: 0306-70209.

"OUCH!" said the mining sharemarket this week when it learned of the half-year results of South Africa's Impala Platinum Holdings.

They were not just disappointing but downright bad with earnings down 26 per cent at R50.2m (£22.8m) in a period when the rival Rustenburg Platinum Holdings had raised its profits by no less than 88 per cent to R59.5m.

As Impala admits, its earnings should also have shown a substantial increase in view of the strengthening demand for platinum. So what went wrong? Simply, the answer is that Impala played the forward exchange markets and got it wrong.

Platinum is sold for U.S. dollars and last year the company took the view that the rise in the value of the dollar over that of the weakening South African rand might have gone far enough. So it sold forward about 30 per cent of its expected dollar revenue for the year to next June at the going exchange rate.

But, as we all know now, the dollar just kept on rising and as a result Impala missed out on a bonanza in rand revenue. The company also lost R34m in forward purchases of metal to meet customer requirements.

Impala stumbles

BY KENNETH MARSTON

What shareholders may find so galling is that, unlike a marginal gold company struggling to keep its head above water, Impala did not really need to take the risks of forward currency dealings.

Far from being in a desperate position the company had reported a jump of 34 per cent in earnings at this time last year and spoken of rising demand for platinum which called for increased production.

To be fair, if Impala's view of the coming exchange rate movements had been correct the company would now be basking in a certain amount of acclamation and Rustenburg would not be looking so clever.

However, the moral of the story is that mining companies should keep to the business they know — there are many sad examples of those who have found it cold outside — and forays into the world of foreign exchange dealings should only be made out of real necessity.

Things should improve in the second half to the point at

which Impala expects its net profits for the full year to June 30 to come out at about the same as those for 1983-84. This suggests a maintained dividend, but Impala has now lost most of the higher dividend yield advantage it previously held over Rustenburg.

Meanwhile, Impala continues to increase production in order to meet platinum demand as does Rustenburg and the Lomre group's Western Platinum. This has prompted a reader to ask why, if demand is so good, the metal price has been sagging in the past few months and is currently around \$268 per oz (yes, about \$30 cheaper than gold).

Basically, the reason is that there is plenty of platinum available if supplies on the free market are taken into account. The mines, however, need to increase their earlier reduced output levels in order to supply the improved demand from their platinum-using industrial customers who would otherwise turn to the free market.

The free, or open, market tends to be dominated by speculators, or those who buy the metal as a hedge against currency uncertainties and inflation in the same way that others buy gold. These days there is not much call for this activity and so the dollar prices of both platinum and gold are depressed.

Other things being equal, a fall in the value of the U.S. dollar means a rise in the dollar price of gold and a fall in the sterling price. If I were a U.S. citizen I might now be tempted to buy some cheap dollar gold as a currency hedge. Being British, I would rather sell the metal at the still high sterling price while the going is good.

Meanwhile, London stockbrokers Fielding Newson-Smith have produced an investment review of the South African gold mines based on their technical merits. Author Derrick Espley-Jones explains that, as a reference work, it is unlikely to become outdated and will be a useful guide to investment when the tide turns.

Prime importance is accorded to the quality and quantity of a mine's orebody. Companies favoured are: Vaal Reefs, Southvaal, Driefontein Consolidated, Hartbeestfontein, Kloof, Kinross and Winkelbank.

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YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Margaret Hughes reports on a new system that will penalise bank depositors

Even the children need tax havens now

FEW CHILDREN, however precocious, are likely to have given much thought to tax havens.

But they, along with other non-taxpayers such as pensioners and those with fluctuating tax liabilities, would do well to check the attractions of such offshore centres as the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. For they will be penalised once banks are required after April 5 to deduct tax at source from depositors' income.

There are also advantages to taxpayers in going offshore because they can defer their tax liabilities.

It is estimated that some 3m non-taxpayers hold savings and deposit accounts. These will be individuals, whose incomes are less than their personal allowances, including age allowances, after taking into account other reliefs. At present they receive their interest gross on their bank deposit or savings accounts.

But from April 6 banks will have to join building societies in deducting tax at source at a common composite rate (CRT) now 25.25 per cent. The composite rate is below the basic tax rate of 30 per cent because it takes account of the fact that a proportion of the building societies' and banks' depositors

are non-taxpayers.

Taxpayers benefit because the composite rate is lower than the rate they would normally pay on their income. But their gain is the non-taxpayers' loss because they too will now be paying tax on their bank interest at the composite rate. The banks are now improving the rate of return on their savings and investment accounts and launching new ones to compensate for the introduction of CRT.

But non-taxpayers would do better either to switch their bank deposits into National Savings or into Government securities sold through the National Savings stock register. These are the only savings media which will now pay interest gross.

Alternatively they can move their funds offshore to the Channel Islands or Isle of Man where all the main clearing banks and several of the merchant banks have overseas branches or locally incorporated trust companies, a service which building societies cannot offer.

Those branches or subsidiaries offer a similar range of deposit and savings accounts paying returns similar to those of their parent companies in the UK. In some instances, as with



Barclays Bank, the initial balances required to open a higher interest account offshore are lower than those onshore. The accounts available offshore include children's accounts, such as Barclays Super Saver, Lloyds Bank's Black Horse Young Saver, Midland's Griffin Account and National Westminster Bank's "Piggy" and "On-line" accounts. The two latter

are offering the best return of 13 per cent gross. For UK residents who are longer in the tooth the most popular accounts are likely to be the high-interest cheque book accounts which offer most flexibility. Midland Bank offers its High Interest Cheque Account offshore.

So, too, does Barclays. In the Isle of Man it offers its Prime Account with the same return and conditions as its UK equivalent. In the Channel Islands its comparable account is the High Interest Call Deposit account. Here the initial deposit at £2,000 is £500 less than that required to open an account in the UK but there is a 50p charge for each cheque withdrawal and there are no standing order arrangements.

Barclays soon will introduce a new high interest deposit account which will be available both in the UK and offshore. There will be two-tiered interest rates above the normal deposit rate with a minimum balance of £1,000 required to open the account. There will, however, be no cheque book facility.

Lloyds Bank's new High Interest Cheque Account, also available offshore, differs from those of the other four clearers in that it has no minimum withdrawal limit. It too offers a cash-point card which allows customers to withdraw £300 a day. An account holder in the Channel Islands, for instance, can withdraw cash from this account through any of Lloyds' 180 cash dispensers in the UK.

National Westminster Bank is alone among the four major English clearers not to offer a cheque book account. But it plans shortly to introduce a Special Reserve account, which pays a higher interest now the best at 13.75 per cent on balances of between £2,000 and £9,999 and 14 per cent on balances of over £10,000. In its offshore branches, the Isle of Man Bank, however, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NatWest incorporated in the Isle of Man, offers an Easy Access account. This has a three-tiered interest structure ranging from 13.25 per cent to 13.75 per cent. As with Special Reserve, cash dispenser facilities are available through a parallel free banking current account. The cash card can be

used to withdraw funds at any NatWest or Midland cash dispenser in the UK.

To open an offshore account customers need only to walk into their branch or any high street branch of the facility. Under Section 482 of the 1970 Taxes Act British banks cannot take the initiative to persuade UK residents to move their funds offshore. But they are perfectly free to make the necessary arrangements at a customer's request.

Anyone opening an offshore deposit account is obliged, as with any UK bank account, to report any interest received to the Inland Revenue. On bank deposit accounts held in the UK, banks are required to report any interest paid to any individual once it reaches £150 a year. However, the Inland Revenue does not require them to do so on accounts held in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man or anywhere else outside the UK. If the customer chooses to have the interest paid directly into his UK bank account there is again no reporting requirement imposed on the banks by the taxman.

Non-taxpayers, the most obvious candidates for moving offshore, most of these will be children. There will be, however, a particular advantage for those making covenants in favour of children to pay the money into offshore accounts. It could be similarly an advantage for those who are made redundant and receive a lump-sum rather than a pension.

Non-taxpayers apart, there could also be benefits for others. In moving offshore, bank customers will be able to pay tax on their interest received at the end of the financial year at their basic or marginal rate. For a basic-rate taxpayer this means that they would be liable to 30 per cent tax on their interest - 4.5 percentage points more than CRT. But by deferring the tax payment, instead of having it deducted at source, they enjoy the use of the gross interest earlier to improve their cash flow or to reinvest. Although banks do not promote the facility it is possible to "roll up" interest in an offshore bank deposit account. Only when the deposit and the rolled-up gross interest is withdrawn from the account will the depositor become liable for tax. Anyone approaching retirement or planning to become an overseas resident can thus defer their tax liability until they either move into a lower tax bracket or (as a non-resident) become exempt from UK tax.

Anyone contemplating a move offshore would, however, be well advised to stick to the offshoots of the big clearing and other well-established UK banks. Although supervision has been tightened in the Channel Islands and, more particularly, in the Isle of Man since the recent bank collapses there, offshore banks are not covered by Bank of England regulations. Investors would not therefore be covered by its depositors' protection scheme. You will therefore have to rely on the good-will of the UK parent bank to guarantee your savings.

A puzzle for investors

ERIC SHORT concludes his series on the workings of 'with profits' life assurance policies by considering how salesmen project your likely returns from... buying a policy

WHEN an investor is considering a savings plan, he likes to have some idea of the return it offers.

The National Savings Yearly plans currently offers a return of just over 9 per cent free of tax. This enables the investor to compare the rates offered by different plans and different institutions.

But a statement of current bonus rates on traditional with-profit life contracts provides no help in estimating the expected return on the contract or in comparing the various life companies.

MC2— For example, how does the investor compare the following two life companies, which have been selected at random from the wide choice currently available?

Royal Life—current rates for assurances:
Reversionary bonus rate £4.70 per cent of the sum assured and £8.20 per cent of attaching bonuses.

Scottish Equitable—current rates for assurances:
Reversionary bonus rate £4.70 per cent of the sum assured and attaching bonuses.
Terminal bonus rate—65 per

WITH PROFITS QUOTATION	
Man aged 40	Man aged 50
10 year term	25 year term
(Monthly premium £50)	
Royal Life	
Sum Assured	5,403 1,252
Est. Rev. Bonus	3,672 45,743
Est. Terminal	1,451 7,160
Est. Maturity	10,546 45,832
Scottish Equitable	
Sum Assured	5,518 13,172
Est. Rev. Bonus	2,217 28,354
Est. Terminal	2,097 18,450
Est. Maturity	10,824 59,956

cent of attaching bonuses.

The relative worth of Royal's higher reversionary bonus rates cannot easily be compared with Scottish Equitable's higher terminal bonus figure. It is even more problematic to try to compare the with-profit contract with other savings plans.

The time-honoured solution in the traditional life assurance market is to provide illustrations of projected benefits under the contract based on current bonus rates. These projections show that if current bonus rates are maintained over the duration of the contract, the investor can expect to receive the amount shown. But this can be misleading.

Bonus projections were introduced many years ago in times of stability when bonus rates changed little with time.

Conditions are now quite different. Reversionary bonus rates have not been cut since the Second World War. Indeed, the trend has been steadily upwards

as investment returns rose mainly because of inflation. But actuaries are forecasting cuts if interest rates fall.

The bonus declarations of both Royal Life and Scottish Equitable are relatively straightforward. By projecting current reversionary bonuses and terminal bonuses over the duration of the contract the investor can obtain an idea of the likely returns from each company. The results are given in the tables for 10-year and 25-year contracts.

The pitfalls of making such comparisons are obvious as there is no guarantee that life companies can even maintain their bonus rates in the future let alone increase them. At present each life company can prepare a quotation on whatever basis it likes and as far too many brokers select a life company for their clients on the basis of a bottom-line figure in the quotation without looking at the underlying assumptions.

So the pressure is on life companies to provide quotations on more optimistic assumptions and add any warnings in small print.

When presented with quotations you should study the small print with care and question your broker on the implications. You should also look at the investment performance of the company.

As Norwich Union chief Hugh Scurfield said, investment conditions over the past decade or so have never been so favourable. So if a company is projecting more than it is currently paying out, ask it why.

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FT23/2

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International 101.4 106.8 +1.7

Property 98.2 101.3 +0.2

Money Market 98.2 101.3 +0.5

Fixed Interest 98.2 101.3 +0.5

UK Equity 98.2 101.3 +0.5

North America 103.3 108.9 +1.2

Japan 97.8 103.1 +2.0

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N.American 32.2 34.9 +0.4 1.30

UK Equity 25.9 31.2 +0.1 1.68

High Inc. 27.4 29.5 +0.5 1.64

Prices as at 22nd February 1985

Many issues, all prices quoted subject to change

100% to be repaid under 25 years

Prices as at 22nd February 1985

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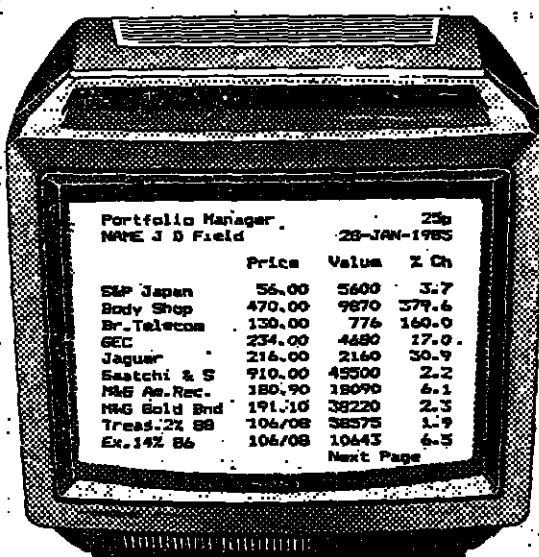
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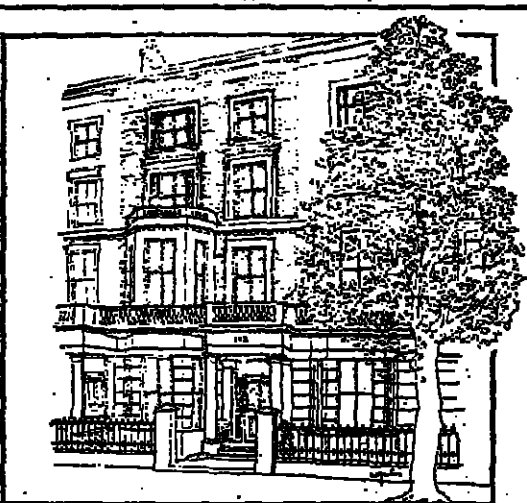
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This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for shares, and relates to a company which is to be incorporated on the 25th February 1985.

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Top 20 unit trusts.

Value of £1000 invested over 3 years to 1st February 1985*

Trust	Value	Rank
Fidelity Japan	3690	1
Pacific Special Situations	3050	2
M&G American Recovery	2987	3
M&G American & General	2966	4
Pacific Technology	2780	5
MLA Unit Trust	2765	6
Equity & Law North American	2714	7
Barrington European	2703	8
Vanguard Special Situations	2658	9
Equity & Law Higher Income	2655	10
Capel North American	2645	11
EEM Tokyo	2625	12
Pacific North American	2621	13
Hill Samuel European	2597	14
Schroder Smaller Companies	2586	15
Oppenheimer International Growth	2565	16
Fidelity American	2536	17
Pacific Far Eastern	2531	18
Barrington Smaller Companies	2527	19
M&G Japan	2500	20
Out of	457	

*Offer to offer with no discount allowed. Source: Money Management.

The Prestel Unit Trusts, 222 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4JS.

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YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

How to overcome infuriation

IF YOU have ever felt infuriated by the loss of a large no-claims discount as a result of a car accident which was another driver's fault, take a look at a simplified insurance policy launched last week by the Trustee Savings Bank.

The TSB Motor Insurance dispenses with the no-claims discount or bonus approach followed by nearly all other insurance companies.

Under the no-claims system, insurance companies charge a high basic premium which is progressively reduced by the No Claim Discount for each year free of a claim up to a maximum discount of 60 per cent after five years.

A claim can set the discount back one or two years, even if the motorist considers the claim was not his fault.

The TSB has introduced different criteria for seeking out

safe drivers.

Premium rates depend on the usual factors in motor insurance — area of residence, type of car, age of car and age of driver, but within each rating, there is just one premium. The motorist has to fulfil the following conditions:

- They must be between 25 and 74 and have driven for the last three years on a full driving licence without a motor insurance claim.
- Entitled to at least three years' NCD.
- Drive a family saloon, hatchback or estate car.
- The car must be used only for social, domestic or pleasure.
- All drivers of the car must be without motoring convictions in the past three years and with no prosecutions pending.

The TSB, however, will ignore fixed penalty parking offences and up to two speeding offences.

• The motorist must not suffer from any illness or infirmity which could affect his driving.

The TSB is thus seeking the low-risk experienced driver. The contract provides cover for the motorist and spouse. If other persons are to be included in the cover then higher premiums have to be paid. The extra premium charge is on a straightforward basis—10 per cent for up to two named drivers and 20 per cent for any other driver.

The contract also incorporates other unusual features. Premiums are quoted monthly and should be paid monthly unless the motorist insists on annual payments. Premium increases, however, take place on the policy anniversary and cover is for a year.

Motorists get a free green card for driving in western Europe for periods up to 30 days. Most insurance companies

charge for green cards.

A single accident will not affect the motorist's safe driver status, though persistent accidents could cause problems if they are deemed to be the motorist's fault.

What if a motorist does not meet the safe driver conditions? The TSB contract is underwritten by Royal Insurance, and anyone not fulfilling the conditions will be advised to see the Royal or any other insurance company.

The simplicity of the contract does not make it the cheapest on the market. The TSB claims only that its rates are competitive for the drivers it wishes to attract.

If a motorist wants the cheapest insurance from a reputable insurer, he should consult a registered insurance broker specialising in motor insurance who has access to a comprehensive motor insurance rating system, such as the one operated by Quotel.

Take two examples. The first example is of a driver aged 26 living in Inner London with a new Ford Escort 1300i. The monthly premium under TSB motor insurance for cover for himself and his wife is £14.67. The top monthly premium according to the Quotel service for roughly equivalent cover is around £18.57.

Exact comparisons are difficult, since almost all insurers still quote annual premiums, with an extra charge for monthly premiums. Even so, the TSB rate is competitive.

The second example is of a 45-year-old driver living in Cornwall, owning a new Sierra 2.0GL. The monthly TSB premium for himself and wife is £10.41—a premium rate that is bettered by only two insurers.

Enter the ombudsman of banking but only for new grievances

NEWS THIS WEEK that the big banks are to set up an ombudsman to look into their customers' complaints should be welcome to the thousands of people who feel they are getting a raw deal from their banks.

Don't dig up that old grievance about the £100 your branch manager lost five years ago. When the ombudsman gets going—probably towards the end of this year—he will deal only with complaints he judges to be new.

That people are upset about the treatment they get from banks is clear. The National Consumer Council estimates that 5 per cent of bank customers have serious complaints, and a quarter of them want an ombudsman. Judging by the letters the Financial Times and other newspapers receive from readers, many fall to get satisfaction through the normal channels.

David Lascelles reports on the big banks effort to placate dissatisfied customers



In relation to the millions of people who use the banks, and the billions of banking transactions made each year, the number of complaints are quite low. Still, individuals feel frustrated and helpless when dealing with big banks. Short of taking them to court, there is little they can do to redress a wrong which the banks do not recognise.

Although the ombudsman and his staff will be paid for by the banks, he will be completely independent and answerable to a council composed mainly of non-banking people. He will have the power to call for the files on a particular case from the bank concerned and, if he upholds the complaint, he will be able to compel the bank to make an

award of up to £50,000.

Though the public will be able to approach him directly, he will investigate complaints only when he is satisfied that the bank's own procedures have been exhausted. An important point is that once a complainant accepts the ombudsman's ruling, he forfeits the right to take further legal action.

The ombudsman will be able to investigate all types of personal complaints (including those from partnerships) against a bank, except the commercial reasons behind loan decisions. So you will not be able to object to a bank's refusal to lend you money if it thinks you are a bad credit risk.

The banks' move has been welcomed in consumer circles, not just because there is a need for an ombudsman, but because

the banks have created one, as Rachel Waterhouse of the NCC says, "with teeth." They could have restricted his power to making recommendations rather than binding rulings.

But the ombudsman's standing will depend greatly on the quality of person chosen for the job. He or she will probably be a lawyer, and the banks seem prepared to offer a decent salary to engage someone suitable.

It appears this will be the first such ombudsman in Europe. The UK insurance industry established its ombudsman five years ago, and he is generally judged to have been a success. However, he has the power to make awards of up to £100,000. The banks' £50,000 was a compromise struck between those who wanted to match the insurance industry,

and those who felt £25,000 was enough.

The banks modelled their scheme on the insurance ombudsman because he is generally judged to have been a success, even though his start was inauspicious. Only three insurance companies took the original initiative. And although an estimated 80 per cent of the insurance industry is now involved, some large insurance companies like Eagle Star have stayed away to run a rival arbitration scheme.

The trouble with arbitration from the consumer's point of view is that the finding is binding on him. If the ombudsman finds against a complainant, he can reject that finding and go to law.

The insurance ombudsman does not publicise details of the companies involved in his investigations or the size of the awards he makes. But his annual report says how many times he found in favour of companies and individuals. In 1983, he dealt with 301 cases. Of these he confirmed 232 decisions by the insurance companies and overturned 52 in favour of the complainant. In the remaining 17 cases, he persuaded the complainants that they had misunderstood their policies.

As with the banking ombudsman, the expense of the scheme is borne by the industry, so it costs a person nothing to go to him. This has led to accusations from those who lost their case that the ombudsman is in the industry's pocket. However the Council, headed by John Macintosh, is adamant that they ensure his independence.

Good news for some expatriates

BRITISH and American expatriate workers stand to gain between £900 and £2,500 as a result of the agreement between the two countries on social security.

If you are British and working in the U.S., or an American working in Britain, you will no longer have to make social security payments in both countries. But you cannot choose the system you prefer.

If a UK employee is sent to the U.S. for a period he expects to be less than five years, he will continue to be covered by the UK social security system. His employer must obtain a certificate of coverage from the

UK Department of Health and Social Security in order to avoid a demand for contributions to the U.S. system.

Similarly, an American sent to the UK should obtain a certificate from the U.S. Social Security Administration to avoid paying British National Insurance contributions.

If you are expecting to stay more than five years, you will in most cases immediately join the scheme of the country you have moved to.

In a second stage, to take effect in 1985, the new social security agreement will allow contributions to one system to be taken into account in assess-

ing benefit entitlements under the other.

Bruce Fink, of the accountants firm Arthur Young, says the agreement is a "win-win" in some cases whether the UK or U.S. social security system applies. But employer and employee could each save between £900 and £2,500. The onus is on you to apply for exemption from one set of contributions.

The Department of Health and Social Security has published a leaflet, SA 33, explaining the working of the new agreement.

George Graham

Eric Short

The Investment Trust Table

The figures in the columns below are based on information supplied by the companies named, which are members of The Association of Investment Trust Companies. All figures are unaudited.

as at close of business on Monday 18th February 1985											as at 31st January 1985											as at close of business on Monday 18th February 1985											as at 31st January 1985										
Total Net Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY	Management	Share Price (pence)	Yield (%)	Net Asset Value (pence)	Geographical Spread					Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.1.85 base=100	Total Net Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY	Management	Share Price (pence)	Yield (%)	Net Asset Value (pence)	Geographical Spread					Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.1.85 base=100	Total Net Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY	Management	Share Price (pence)	Yield (%)	Net Asset Value (pence)	Geographical Spread					Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.1.85 base=100								
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	UK (%)	Nth. Amer. (%)	Japan (%)	Other (%)	Gearing Factor (11) base=100	(12)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	UK (%)	Nth. Amer. (%)	Japan (%)	Other (%)	Gearing Factor (11) base=100	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)											
CAPITAL & INCOME GROWTH																																											
459	Alliance Trust	Independently managed	685	3.0	898	39	49	7	5	93	344	70	Comm. & Energy (cont.)	Ivory & Sims	79	2.0	118	26	62	-	-	-	118	161																			
104	Bankers	Touche, Remnant	100	3.5	128	44	41	10	5	106	344	16	Viking Resources	Edinburgh Fund Mgrs.	537	5.3	722	36	35	-	29	-	97	221																			
248	Barrington	John Gove	169	2.8	230	44	27	22	7	107	286	32	Winterbottom Energy	Baillie, Gifford	100	1.0	123	14	86	-	-	-	66	195																			
316	British Investment Trust	Independently managed	358	5.1	502	43	39	17	1	85	298	12	Technology	Baillie Gifford Tech. (w)	96	-	107	59	39	2	-	-	46	+																			
72	Brunner	Kleinwort Benson	73	3.9	100	47	36	6	11	95	293	63	British American & Gen.	Kleinwort Benson	105	3.5	125	52	36	9	3	99	250																				
58	Charter Trust & Agency	Schroder Wagg	82	3.7	104	59	25	14	-	94	291	54	Fleming Technology	Robert Fleming	159	2.0	213	38	39	21	2	91	318																				
134	Continental & Industrial	Schroder Wagg	642	4.0	776	57	41	-	2	101	292	102	Independent	Ivory & Sims	310	0.2	363	18	78	-	4	97	+																				
177	Drayton Premier	Montagu Inv. Man.	404	4.5	561	56	27	14	3	95	+	317	TR Technology	Touche, Remnant	99	2.4	134	33	47	16	4	102	315																				
536	Edinburgh Investment (w)	Dunedin Fund Managers	113	3.3	154	46	38	9	7	105	315	117	INCOME GROWTH	Aberdeen Fund Managers	174	5.4	206	70	38	1	1	95	263																				
568	Foreign & Colonial	Foreign & Colonial	141	2.5	189	39	35	17	9	105	+	265	Aberdeen	Ivory & Sims	210	4.5	272	46	54	-	-	100	303																				
59	General Consolidated	Philip Hill	256	5.1	312	54	42	-	4	92	293	+	First Scottish American	Dunedin Fund Managers	262	3.3	+	4	+	-	-	+	+	+																			
716	Globe	Electra House Group	270	4.5	356	63	25	7	5	102	251	132	Lowland	Henderson	250	3.7	282	89	7	1	3	105	424																				
299	Philip Hill	Philip Hill	252	5.2	308	69	28	-	2	96	294	119	Manchester	Kleinwort Benson	94	4.3	125	52	31	8	9	91	275																				
9	Joe Holdings	Kleinwort Benson	106	4.3	139	77	16	4	3	96	287	146	Murray Income	Murray Johnstone	115	5.6*	135	76	11	2	11	92	334																				
36	Keystone	Warburg Inv. Man.	384	3.7	494	54	30	14	2	103	+	39	Securities Trust of Scotland	Martin Currie	120	4.4	163	53	30	14	3	109	293																				
38	London & Strathclyde	Gartmore	182	1.8	208	46	48	1	5	98	314	61	SMALLER COMPANIES	Montagu Inv. Man.	249	3.9	339	55	31	9	5	110	+																				
43	Meldrum	Gartmore	171	3.4	215	71	29	13	10	96	342	12	English & International (w)	Foreign & Colonial	93	2.5	123	48	35	13	4	108	322																				
101	Outch	Baring Brothers	277	3.0	185	56	21	13	10	105	272	19	F & C Alliance	Kleinwort Benson	202	4.7	382	95	4	-	-	99	266																				
124	Racomb	Leazard Brothers	326	4.2	448	67	40	-	8	94	+	30	Family	Robert Fleming	105	3.1	146	75	19	5	1	82	287																				
81	River & Mercantile	Tarbutt & Co.	134	4.8	198	55	34	8	3	94	+	39	Fleming Fledgling	John Gove	155	2.2	207	46	52	1	-	92	242																				
+	River Plate & General (w)	Tarbutt & Co.	230	4.5	+	+	+	+	+	163	+	30	General Stockholders	Gartmore (Scotland)	118	2.5	151	45	42	2	11	102	399																				
35	Save & Prosper Ret. of Assets (w)	Save & Prosper Group	85	1.0	129	78	22	-	-	96	353	41	Glasgow Stockholders	Investors in Industry	156	3.7	119	61	28	-	-	95	243																				
436	Scottish Mortgage	Gartmore (Scotland)	237	2.6	310	46	36	2	4	112	347	25	London Atlantic	Philip Hill	267	5.4	301	89	5	-	6	91	240																				
247	Scottish National	Paul & Williamson	127	3.7	169	69	28	49	7	5	94	49	North British Canadian	Investors in Industry	179	4.5	236	90	6	-	-	100	247																				
177	Scottish Northern	Independently managed	586	3.5	774	39	49	7	5	94	347	180	St Andrew	Martin Currie	305	3.6	426	54	39	15	2	101	267																				
151	Second Alliance	Touche, Remnant	149	3.2	215	43	24	26	7	101	281	178	Scottish American	Stewart Fund Managers	232	3.4	322	43	40	9	8	96	273																				
480	TR Industrial & General	Henderson	157	2.4	209	50	31	13	8	109	344	187	Smaller Companies Int.	Edinburgh Fund Mgrs	74	3.0	93	47	37	16	-	96	334																				
384	Witan (w)	Henderson	121	5.5	142	96	4	-	-	94	+	178	TR Trustees Corp.	Touche, Remnant	135	3.6	185	57	24	8	1	107	268																				
10	United Kingdom	Hamro Bank	212	4.4	349	99	1	-	-	95	269	187	Throgmorton (w)	Throgmorton Inv. Man.	226	4.7	288	85	13	2	-	112	306																				
32	City of Oxford	Robert Fleming	253	4.9	323	100	-	-	-	101	302	63	SPECIAL FEATURES	J. Rothschild	101	2.0	125	41	33	16	10	96	+																				
26	Piemont & Chichester	N.M. Rothschild	380	5.4	488	95	2	1	2	105	+	14	Consolidated Venture (w)	Montagu Inv. Man.	118	1.0	137	61	27	-	-	86	239																				
7	Shires (w)	Stancastle Assets	238	7.4	193	96	3	-	-	103	180	18	Drayton Consolidated	Montagu Inv. Man.	294	4.3	415	81	27	-	-	83	+																				
110	TR City of London	Touche, Remnant	83	5.3	107	87	12	-	-	104	282	32	Edinburgh Financial (w)	Stancastle Assets	47	2.1	46	69	12	9	10	126	+																				
82	Temple Bar	Electra House Group	121	5.5	142	96	4	-	-	94	+	261	Fleming Enterprise	Robert Fleming	255	4.4	321	99	1	-	-	89	300																				
CAPITAL GROWTH																																											
235	General	Morgan Grenfell	294	2.8	384	42	36	17	5	113	305	261	Fleming Mercantile	Robert Fleming	116	3.4	166	49	33	8	10	98	282																				
156	Anglo-American Securities	Schroder Wagg	427	2.7	506	57	29	10	4	98	276	147	TR Global Recovery	GT Management	114	2.5	141	63	34	-	-	101	+																				
178	Asiatic Assets	Ivory & Sims	118	0.6	144	22	74	-	1	96	278	81	London Trust Mar. Serv.	London Trust Mar. Serv.	106	3.7	119	61	28	-	-	95	301																				
132	Edinburgh Amer. Assets	Ivory & Sims	332	0.6	274	14	80	-	1	109	340	81	Murray Ventures (w)	London & Manchester	283	2.2	370	61	16	12	11	99	301																				
67	Electric & General	Henderson	282	1.7	368	47	40	11	2	101	331	8	Nineteen Twenty-Eight	Stewart Fund Managers	176	4.5	217	95	4	-	-	92	266																				
24	Greenfriar (w)	Henderson	210	1.1	265	60	19	12	9	107	336	82	TR Property	Throgmorton Inv. Man.	35	1.7	50	41	35	14	10	99	+																				
78	International	GT Management	192	0.7	213	40	35	12	13	118	369	22	SPLIT CAPITAL (x)	Alfred	501	0.1	616	96	2	-	-	97	399																				
104	English & New York	Kleinwort Benson	104	3.4	128	28	50	11	10	103	312	37	Child Health Research	J. Rothschild	300	-	333	90	5	22	50	28	155	+																			
79	English & Scottish	Gartmore	77	2.1*	86	35	33	-	-	99	312	30	City & Commercial	Montagu Inv. Man.	678	-	672	90	5	4	1	111	378	+																			
222	F & C Eurotrust	Foreign & Colonial	128	2.6	161	10	55	16	19	87	312	22	Dualvest	Montagu Inv. Man.	1062	-	1280	69	10	1	-	110	+																				
73	Fleming Overseas	Robert Fleming	326	3.0	422	19	53	13	15	95	266	37	Fundinvest	Montagu Inv. Man.	300	-	405	8	6	5	-	110	+																				
73	Fleming Universal	Robert Fleming	326	3.0	422	19	53	13	15	95	266	37	Marine Adventure Sailing	J. Rothschild	215	-	232	88	22	50	28	110	+																				
27	Gartmore Inform. & Fin. (w)	Gartmore	62	2.5	76	36	56	4	4	124	304	29	New Throgmorton (1983)(w)	Throgmorton Inv. Man.	31	-	89	99	-	-	-	161	+																				
131	Group Investors (w)	CS Investments	148	2.2	312	41	54	1	4	100	849	28	Save & Prosper Linked	Save & Prosper Group	201	-	473	100	-	-	-	124	294	+																			
191	Hambros Bank	Hambros Bank	258	3.4	317	48	43	4	5	111	317	38	Throgmorton Sec'd Growth	Throgmorton Inv. Man.	366	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+													
21	Investors Capital Trust	Independently managed	202	3.4*	302	32	42	15	12	107	317	38	Triplevest	Montagu Inv. Man.	720	-	1093	65	14	1	-	113	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+												
191	London & Gartmore	Baillie, Gifford	213	1.3	196	17	43	13	27	97	+	80																															
11	Mid West International	Baillie, Gifford	167	2.1	218	28	41	23	8	93	322																																
170	Monks	Murray Johnstone	95	2.1*	128	35	44	17	4	82	311																																
204	Murray Growth	Murray Johnstone	181	1.8*	227	18	15	28	39	91	332																																
228	Murray International	Murray Johnstone	312	1.5	392	-	55	31	14	100	+																																
74	Murray Smaller Markets	Morgan Grenfell	175	2.8	371	29	46	24	1	111	+																																
76	Northern American Securities	GT Management	269	1.4	218	52	38	5	12	114	317																																
134	Northern Securities	Lazard Brothers	262	2.4	356	22	36	-	-	297	275																																
106	Romney	Martin Currie	184	3.3	224	49	24	21	6	106	269																																
252	Scottish Eastern	Independently managed	268	2.8	374	31	39	17	13	103	269																																
336	Scottish Investment Trust	Schroder Wagg	161	2.8	215	40	38	14	8	97	280																																
79	Thames Oceanic	Baring Brothers	120	2.7	152	87	34	17	12	90	328																																
198	Tribune	GT Management	207	4.5	374	44	36	12	8	112	256																																
154	U.S. Debenture Corp.	GT Management	207	4.5	374	44	36	12	8	112	256																																



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PROPERTY

What to do with a Scottish castle?

BY JUNE FIELD

WHAT DO you do with an historic castle that has outgrown its use as a family home? At Dunrobin, seat of the Countess of Sutherland, they tried a boarding school along the lines of Gordonstoun, but inaccessibility (it is the most northerly of Scotland's great houses), led to its closure after a few years.

Now the major part of the 15th century castle where Queen Victoria used to stay, has this week been sold for timesharing, acquired by Hapimag holiday property club with its headquarters in Basel, Switzerland. (Founded in 1963, the company claims some 30,000 timeshare owners over 1,500 properties in 11 European countries, with paid-up assets exceeding £50m).

The Dunrobin development will consist of a period "village" in the grounds with 150 cottages complete with cobbled streets and Celtic Cross, plus about 25 studio-apartments in the castle where the Sutherlands will still retain their private quarters. Shares can cost around £3,000 or so, which provides a family of four with a rent-free stay for a week each year in perpetuity. And the "time" can be swapped with other resorts.

Hapimag's UK representative, Alexander Smith, Comer International, Fairview Road, Timperley, Cheshire, estimates that the scheme will bring in at least £4m annually in hard overseas currency, as well as providing much needed local employment.



Dunrobin Castle, Golspie, in the Scottish Highlands, seat of the Countess of Sutherland, where the main property has been acquired for a multi-million pound holiday development. Details: Comer International 061-904 9750

With fresh stock coming up all the time, one cannot always expect "second-hand" units to be easy to turn over, admits Barratt re-sale manager John Coxhead, while reporting that around £700,000-worth of weeks has changed hands in re-sales since 1975. (Both buyer and seller have to pay 15 per cent commission plus VAT if selling is done through his section). He maintains that "many owners have made considerable profits, although we always warn that timeshare is not a short-term investment."

For a booklet *All the Facts on Timeshare*, contact Frank Chapman, Barratt Multi-Ownership, 6 Half Moon Street, London, W1. If you have any genuine problems, you can get in touch with the British Property Timeshare Association, 4-5, Shilling Street, Lavenham, Suffolk, where Marcus Fox MP heads a consumer protection committee.

BPTA secretary Brian Wates is also setting up a Timeshare Bourse to provide a re-sale and rental network throughout Europe. It is an ambitious venture, with a listing fee likely to be around £25, with commission 17 1/2 per cent.

Careful thought and proper legal advice should always be taken before buying any timeshare. Although low-season weeks in some developments are still under £1,000, now that prime-time (usually school holidays) is starting to approach £8,000 or so, a timeshare is not something to be bought casually over the coun-

ter. Remember, there will be management fees of between £45 to £100 a year for each week bought.

There are some bargains around though. At Broome Park, Canterbury, Kent, where Regency-style villas have been built in the grounds of Lord Kitchener's old home, prices have been marked down nearly 50 per cent if you complete a purchase before the end of the month. For instance a March

week at £2,450 is going for £1,225, and you can buy in August for £2,975, both figures plus VAT. (Details John Wythe, 0227 831701.)

For those who want expert advice on the whole subject, solicitor James Edmunds' book *International Timesharing* is required reading. It is £18.50 plus £1.50 postage from Services to Lawyers, Unit 1, Robin Hood Works, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey.

ON THE MARKET...

● Ringwood House, in 6 1/2 acres in Kent, nine bedroom home in two units, designed by Sir John Soane about 1815, the working drawings of which can be seen in the Soane Museum in London's Lincoln's Inn Fields. G. W. Finn & Sons, Sandwich, Kent, is inviting offers in the region of £180,000.

● Winterfold House, in 4 1/2 acres near Guildford, close to National Trust land, was built about 1881 in the Queen Anne style for Viscount Alverstone, Lord Chief Justice of England, and was later the home of King Carol of Romania. Hampton and Sons' Cranleigh, Surrey office is quoting a guide price of £275,000.

● Annle's Cottage, Braishfield, near Southampton, home of British Olympic yachtsman Chris Law, is for sale at £49,950 through Jackson and Jackson's Romsey office.

● Groveley Farm, Dallington, is believed to be the last stone east in Sussex, now a three

bedroom home and studio with a swimming pool. Braxtons, Heathfield, East Sussex has issued a guide price of £115,000 and offers are expected before auction.

● Sandbourne Stud, in 34 acres at Bourne Bank, Worcestershire, home of a number of successful show ponies including Harmony Bubblying Champagne, and Bridesmaid of Rosewood, is for sale in excess of £300,000 through Knight Frank and Rutley's Chipping Norton office, and Andrew Grant, Worcester.

● The Lusham Park Estate in 272 acres in Wiltshire, where over 200 winners have been trained, is expected to go to auction on Tuesday March 19. Humberts, Chippenham, and Loveday and Loveday, Swindon, are looking for over £1m for the Georgian house of Bath stone, racing stables for 80, manager's house, hotel, lodges and gardeners' cottages.

GARDENING

Sowing seeds of success

BY ARTHUR HELLIER

PARTICULARS of the two Fluorescent seed plant varieties for 1985 are just in hand. They are Rudbeckia Goldlocks and Gazania Mini-Star Tangerine but before I say more about them I had better explain what Fluorescent is.

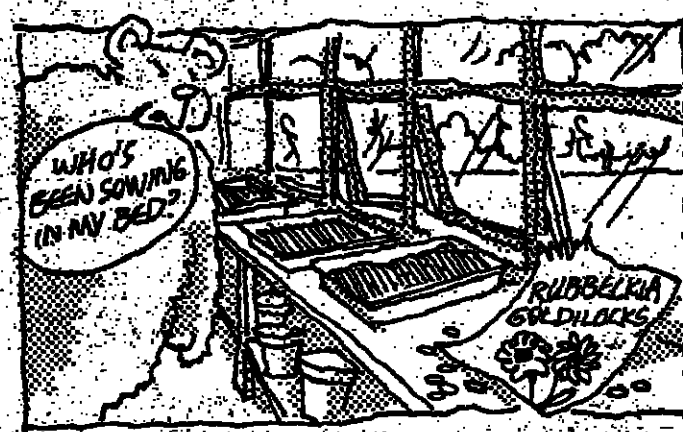
It is a seed trade organisation for the trial of new varieties of plants from seed in numerous places in Europe, including Britain. Unlike the flower seed trials of the Royal Horticultural Society which are judged by mixed panels of professional and amateur gardeners, Fluorescent judges are all professionals, and its awards are always very restricted. Though it can give gold, silver and bronze medals, no gold has ever been awarded since trials commenced in 1970 and there have only been two silvers in the same period. All the rest have been bronze and that is what this year's newcomers have got.

Though the trials were actually held some time ago, the award winning varieties are not released until sufficient seed has been produced to make them freely available and that is now the case with Goldlocks and Mini-Star Tangerine.

In my view Rudbeckia Goldlocks is the better of these two 1985 releases and I would not have been surprised if it had won a silver as did Lavatera Silver Cup in 1979. As a garden plant it seems to me to be in the same class. It is British raised, a development from the well known Rudbeckia Marmalade, differing from it in having several rows of petals instead of only one. So there is a more solid display of colour.

Rudbeckia Goldlocks is 2 ft high and 12-18 ins in diameter. The daisy-type flowers are 3-4 in across, marigold yellow with a black central disc. Seed can be sown in early spring or early autumn and my own seedlings, from an October sowing, are overwintering quite happily in an unheated greenhouse.

Fluorescent recommends a temperature of 21 degs C (70 degs F) for germination and says that three months is necessary to produce saleable plants, which emphasises the need for either early spring or early autumn sowing. Fluorescent also suggests that to get plants to flower earlier seedlings, after being riched out, should be given artificial lighting for six weeks to extend day length to 16 hours but that is for professionals or enthusiasts only. My Goldlocks will have to make do with the natural daylight of Sussex and I am sure they will



not object. Gazania Mini-Star Tangerine is also a development from a variety we already know, Mini-Star Yellow, and differs from it solely in flower colour which is angrier orange, not daffodil yellow. Both are excellent plants, perennials, not annuals, but coming true from seed and probably most economically produced in that way though I am sure that many gardeners will overwinter plants in frost proof greenhouses or frames or even on sunny window ledges and may propagate them by summer cuttings just like other gazanias.

The Mini-Star flowers are small by comparison with some modern giant strains such as Sundance, 24-3 in across, but none the worse for that as they look natural and are very freely produced. They also open readily as the sun gains power each day and the plants are short and compact.

Seed really does need a temperature of 21 degs C (70 degs F) for quick and safe germination and Fluorescent makes the rather vague recommendation that damping off should be avoided with "the standard chemicals".

I do not know precisely what the writer has in mind but my suggestion would be to use a fungicide. No chemical treatment should be necessary if fresh peat-based compost is used and hygienic conditions are maintained. But do not forget that gazanias are South African sun lovers useless in dark cold wet places.

Looking back a year I see that the two Fluorescent winners for 1984 were then both closely related bedding geraniums. One was Scarlet Diamond, which actually received one of those rare silver medals, the other Cherry Diamond, a colour variation from it.

Notes I made when I saw them on trial were that Scarlet Diamond started to flower exceptionally early and

had more open flowers than any other variety on trial and that Cherry Diamond was a cherry red version of it but not quite so free flowering.

Since then both have been well received and are freely available but my favourite of the new geraniums is pink and white Hollywood Star, which has won no medals but is very beautiful in containers or summer flower borders.

A plant that is not new but certainly novel is Chrysanthemum multicaule Gold Plate. The fancy name for this little Algerian wild plant gives a false impression of size for, though the flowers are certainly golden, there is nothing plate-like about them. Gold Coin might have been better.

They are little single daisies produced abundantly on prostrate stems ideal for a rock garden or window box or ground cover in any sunny place. This is a half hardy annual and I can only find it in Unwins (Histon, Cambridge) catalogue. Not a plant for Fluorescent awards but one to make your gardening friends stop and ask questions.

Since I wrote about Kenyan wild flowers several readers have recommended Sir Michael Bindell's book *The Wild Flowers of Kenya*, published by Cassell, and Sir Michael has himself written to say that he is now engaged on a second volume with 500 illustrations in colour and 800 or so in text which will be ready in about two years.

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TRAVEL

Energetic holidays are a hit

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

THOSE WERE the days. A holiday was a holiday. Beaches, sunshine, the occasional drop of Sangria and a leisurely trip to Manuel's for some fried squid. It was back to the office on Monday morning with the Kodachromes and a sun-burned nose. That's what a holiday was.

But not any more. The high-fibre people have got it. The annual break is not up to standard unless you've climbed a mountain, learned to ride or studied ancient Greek. And the high-fibre holiday menu is a lengthy one.

The latest addition to it is the English Tourist Board's new *Activity and Hobby Holiday* brochure (£1.25).

To study this booklet is to come to the conclusion that the entire British population has abandoned its armchairs for the energetic and brain-testing. The range of walking holidays alone is huge.

The booklet demonstrates, however, that you do not have to leave your own shores for such daunting pursuits as hang-gliding and trail riding, caving and canoeing. The list of cerebral pursuits is equally impressive, but more of that next week.

In the case of almost every special interest there are at least three types of break on offer.

(a) A holiday where leisure facilities are available, with golf course, tennis courts and even flower arranging.

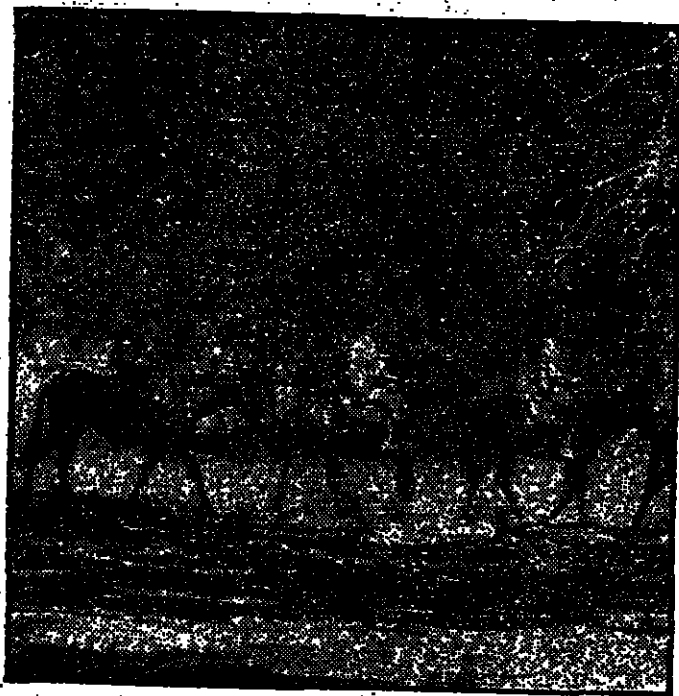
(b) The "just for fun" trip: like pony trekking, flotilla yacht holidays and painting weekends.

(c) Enthusiasts' trips. You would expect everyone to be competent in the skills concerned and the conversation rarely to wander off the activity.

Some holidays do not fit into these arbitrary sectors, like dog-sledding and white-water rafting and the children's and young people's camps and trips.

If you are serious about your interest, then make sure you travel with the like-minded. Probably the two biggest growth activity holiday fields at the moment are riding and sailing, and questions about skill, experience, age, weight and expectations are essential.

Many holiday offers today combine effort with culture.



Holidaymakers trek through the forest

The companies clearly suppose that their customers will have high standards in things other than archaeological sites and local flora. Serenissima, for example, has excellent, if pricey, trips. Its sister company, Heritage, should not be overlooked.

And its brochure on a trip to the Himalayas says: "Although the route of this tour is at low altitude (maximum height 9,000 ft) we must insist on the participant producing a doctor's certificate and obtaining full insurance cover."

Both Serenissima and Heritage tend to have a cultural emphasis. At the other end of the scale you have a company such as Sherpa, which has a strong cultural undercurrent, but where the prime emphasis is on adventure.

Sherpa, which grades its trips according to difficulty (measured by the number of days on the trail), does treks in India, Nepal, Africa and Peru.

Most of the companies mentioned have Air Tour Operators licences, and or ABTA membership, which mean that your holiday money is protected. If neither ABTA nor ATOL logos appear on the brochure or booking form, ask questions.

You will find these reassuring signs around a string of companies that offer flotilla sailing around the coasts of Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey. Fairly typically four people sharing a self-catered small boat in a flotilla will cost £400 to £500 a person. Look for names like Falcon, Phoenix, Island Sailing... and the key letters ATOL.

If that does not appeal, then the French National Tourist Office in Piccadilly, London, will give you details of ballooning holidays in the Jura (by the Quixote Ballooning Group). Again there is a proviso. These trips are limited "to active people over 18."

Britain provides a remarkable wealth of special interest and activity holidays. Travel columns have great difficulty in dealing with the topic, not only because of the range, but because it is a fragmented industry made up of thousands of enthusiasts. Some, however, run pretty awful set-ups.

The pre-screening, plus the ironing out of visa and other administrative problems, is why I would command a tour company rather than do-it-yourself for activity and culture holidays abroad. A personal visit before your booking will at least ease the accommodation and equipment look up to standards.

But readers who are encouraged to leap into this mad world do so at their own risk. Cracked skulls and migraines (from late-night swatting on the history of the Incas) are natural hazards.

Further information: the English Tourist Board's brochure should be on the bookstalls now or can be obtained from local tourist boards. The Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland tourist boards will provide similar lists (write to Mr Duncan Black, chairman of the British Tourist Authority). The French list is part of its annual, *The Traveller in France*, which is worth getting anyway. All other brochures mentioned should be available from travel agents. Get several before making a choice.

Lailan Young reports on lunch and business in Paris

Hands across the eel terrine and pigeon

IN FRANCE business and food go together like the fish terrine and its crayfish sauce. Le business, in fact, is what famous French chefs do to make lots of money: television appearances, endorsing gourmet products, writing books. If you are in Paris on business of a British nature you should remember that you are dealing with a nation of foodies.

There are two restaurants in Paris at present where to provide hospitality ought to ensure that French guests will agree to almost anything. One is Taillevent, 15 rue Lamoignon (tel 561.12.90). One of the few French restaurants to insist that its clients wear ties, it is the epitome of *bon ton à l'ancienne*, which the French justifiably like for civilised good taste.

Trade on the advantage, and order herby terrine of eel, truffled saddle of lamb, or a stunts of pigeon with bone marrow. The desserts are delicious and the glorious wine list is more reasonably priced than most at this level: there are 20 excellent bottles under 100 francs. Allow up to 500 francs a head à la carte.

Even more coveted by the French, because it is smaller and all the current rage, is Jamin, 32 rue de Longchamp (tel 727.12.27), now equally well-known by the name of its young chef, Joël Robuchon. His rocket to fame has barely afforded him time to get started in the business so prices are modest.

The ten-course *menu dégustation* costs Fr 390 and will completely distract French guests with its culinary minutiae. The tiny red flecks in the sauce of shellfish and thyme, for example, is the minutely diced coral of the rarer clam on whose shell it is served, and those green commas on the nugget of cod larded with smoked salmon are the finest peeled brook beans.

The cooking is inspired, the house champagne wonderful (Fr 280) and the wine list has excellent Sancerre rouge at Fr 110 among its more modest bottles. Allow up to Fr 500 a la carte. There is a Fr 145 lunch menu, but the memorable treats are on the main menus and should not be missed. Book here and at Taillevent at least six weeks in advance.

Choose the right hotel and

nowadays you can entertain in its restaurant without risking its gastronomic scorn. The leader in bringing about this change is the Crillon, 10 place de la Concorde, (tel 265.24.24) lavishly revived by Jean Taittinger of the champagne family. Les Ambassadeurs must be the most palatial dining room in Paris — a lofty hall of marble, gilt and glass — and the chef, Jean-Paul Bonin, works miracles.

His desserts — especially the chocolate specialities — are among Paris's best, and the service is punctilious. The menu is 280F. Again allow 500 a la carte. The wine list is not cheap, but the excellent sommelier will find something good under Fr 150.

At the Ritz (260.38.30), and for the restaurant enter from the Rue Cambon, the Espadon is a prettily decorated room with an air fresco feel, looking out to a courtyard full of imitation statuary. There is nothing false, though, about the enlightened classicism of chef Guy Legay's food, and the service is outstandingly good. The menu costs Fr 210, allow 450 a la carte, and the sommelier will expertly select the right bottle at prices from about Fr 120.

Other hotels where the restaurants are now seriously regarded include the Sofitel Bonhôte, Bristol Nikko, and the perfectly situated Meurice.

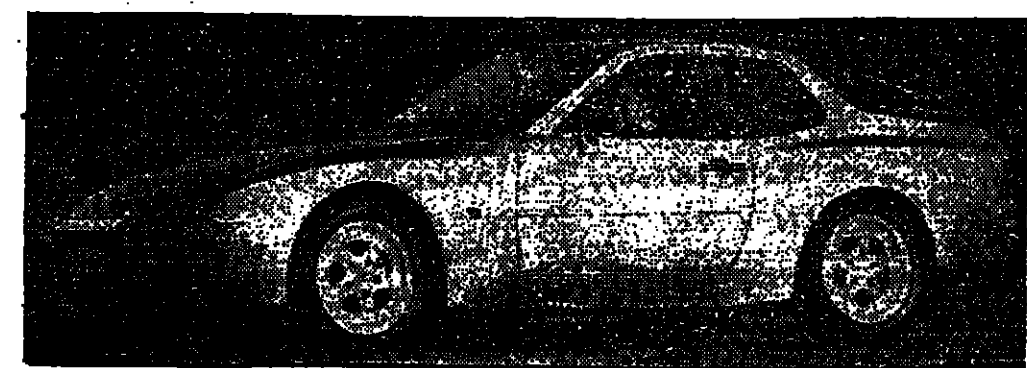
For those with families, there are an excellent eating place half way up the major tourist attraction: the restaurant Jules Verne (tel 555.30.04) is reached by private lift from the south-west foot of the Tour Eiffel.

It is astutely designed in blacks and greys to throw into maximum relief the fabulous views from the windows. The best tribute to the chef, Louis Brocard, is that often there are more Parisians than tourists in his dining rooms. The weekday lunch menu is Fr 170, allow up to Fr 400 a la carte, but book well ahead (three weeks).

Finally, anyone having a cooking enthusiast in the family will be drawn toward the food shops of the Place de la Madeleine. Here at number 21, Hédiard has opened a light and airy restaurant above its new

charcuterie (tel 266.09.00) where quick three-course meals can be had for about Fr 200.

MOTORING



Porsche's 944 Turbo. Good for 152 mph and "environmentally friendly"

Perfection from Porsche

BY STUART MARSHALL

THE POSSIBILITY of a speed limit on the autobahn may be hanging over the German car industry's head but it isn't affecting Porsche's philosophy. Fast driving is not the only thing that makes a Porsche attractive. If you merely want to go fast on the autobahn, you don't need one of our cars. They're quick round corners, too. It will be a tragedy if the autobahn are no longer free of speed restriction, but it won't change the way we design and build our cars.

I am quoting Porsche chief executive Peter Schutz at the media launch of the latest product of the world's largest specialist maker of high performance cars. The Porsche 944 Turbo will make its official debut at the Geneva Show early next month but British buyers will have to wait until November to take delivery. I tried one all too briefly in France a fortnight ago.

The price is likely to be about £27,000, for which one will get a 152 mph two-plus-two designed to run on unleaded fuel and which will perform equally well when fitted with a catalytic converter to clean up exhaust emissions. The 944 Turbo is, in Peter Schutz's words, the first of a new generation of Porsche cars that will be environmentally friendly even though they have very high performance potential.

The driving position seemed ideal: the seat has electronic to-and-fro and height adjustment. There is plenty of luggage space under the glass hatch, with overflow accommodation on the cramped rear seats.

Will the 944 Turbo seduce buyers away from the traditional Porsche 911 Carrera, which with its air-cooled, flat-six rear engine and looks little changed by the passage of the years? Porsche admits to the

possibility but says the model mix can easily be adjusted to suit demand.

I would have thought the 944 Turbo a greater threat to the V8 engine 928, to which it is closer in character. The 944 Turbo and 928 lack the animal feel of the 911, which really is more like a living thing than a machine. I've been using a 911 Carrera in Britain for the last ten days and there is no other car in the world like it.

The 911 demands and deserves a driver's full attention. All the time, because it won't cover up a mistake, especially on the kind of roads we have had this month. There is nothing remote about the engine, the ride is harsher than the 944 Turbo's and the gearshift isn't as good—but it is a car in which one deliberately takes the long way round on a journey and is still sorry when it is over.

Porsche had thought that the introduction of the 924 and 944 would have killed off the 911 by now. But it continues to be demanded by people who like a car to have spirit and some exciting developments are in the pipeline. Four-wheel drive among them.

I like to drive a 911 at least once a year. It is a living proof of Peter Schutz's contention that you don't have to shatter speed limits to enjoy yourself in a Porsche.

THE NEW Toyota Starlet, on sale this week at £4,770, has a 12-valve, one-litre engine, front-wheel drive and five-speed gearbox. It replaces the old Starlet which was almost alone among high-volume hatchbacks in having rear-wheel drive. It handles well, rides surprisingly comfortably on rough cobbled roads and has a turning circle of just over 28 ft. At 50 mpg, and more it is another rival to the Metro.



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BOOKS

Cities as the solution to all our difficulties

BY MICHAEL PROWSE

Cities and the Wealth of Nations: Principles of Economic Life

by Jane Jacobs. Viking, £12.95, 257 pages

If Jane Jacobs is to be believed, the only way Britain and other advanced nations can avert a long-term economic decline is by undergoing voluntary fragmentation into families of sovereign city states. Ms Jacobs is not, of course, naive enough to regard such an outcome as even remotely likely, and so she remains profoundly gloomy about the world's economic prospects. Cities, she believes, provide the life-force of economies, but imprisoned within nations, they are destined to inevitable decline. Should the stagnation of cities become globally synchronised, Ms Jacobs warns darkly, the whole world might revert to the condition of Ethiopia.

This is a bizarrely implausible thesis and Ms Jacobs' arguments are unlikely to withstand the scrutiny of professional economists, who will not be amused by her arrogant dismissal of all received economic wisdom—from Marx to Milton Friedman—as so much hogwash. To this reader's delight, however, the book contains not a single graph, chart or equation. It is a reminder of that golden age when economic arguments were expressed in clear English—before the discipline was deluged by a post-war surplus of second-rate mathematical.

Not by nature a number-cruncher, Ms Jacobs attempts to illustrate her arguments in a manner Adam Smith might have appreciated: by plucking examples from real life. The technique is obviously perilous: by suitable choice of counter-example, it would probably be possible to stand all Ms Jacobs' arguments on their heads. Nevertheless, her historical/geographical tour is entertaining, taking in 10th-century Venice,

America, pre-war Uruguay, the contemporary hamlets of Bardonia and Nazario in France and Mexico, not to mention post-war Japan and tomorrow's dynamic Pacific Rim economies. In keeping with traditional development economics, she discusses Peter the Great and the Shah of Iran's doomed efforts to "buy" development as though it were "a collection of capital goods".

Ms Jacobs' book turns on a pair of theses—one negative, one positive. Her negative thesis is that traditional macro-economics is fatally flawed because it assumes national economies are "useful and salient" entities for study. The author "denies" national economies are a tagbag of diverse sub-economies. Political sovereignty confers no kind of economic coherence and the careless lumping together of sub-economies is a grave error. This sceptical thesis is, rather attractive and many readers may accept it happily enough. Yet many will find Ms Jacobs' positive thesis—that cities are the key economic unit—much harder to swallow.

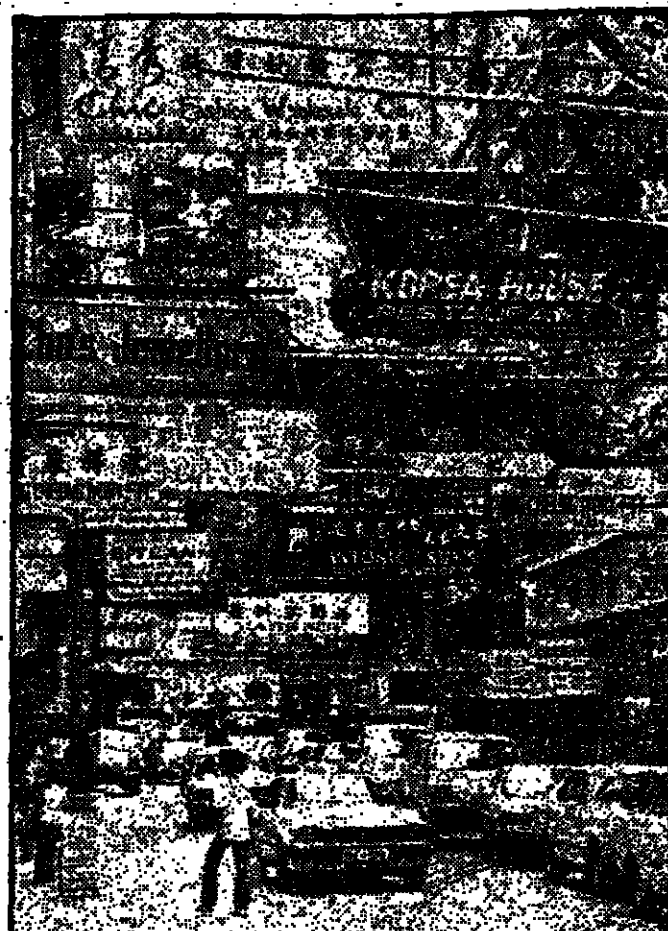
What is so special about cities? According to Ms Jacobs, the process of replacing imports, finding new and cheaper ways of producing goods for export, and the main spring of economic development. And "import-replacing" is, she assures us, a purely automatic city process. Indeed, the author "defines" cities as settlements which export at import-replacing. Cities, says Ms Jacobs, supply "diverse and concentrated markets" for both consumers and producers and provide webs of "complex symbiotic relationships". They are the hotbed of improvisation, versatility and flexibility, which, in the author's canon, are the keys to economic well-being.

Professional economists are likely to have great difficulties with the odd claim that import-replacing by cities is at the root of all economic expansion. Why

the obsession with imports? Why could not a settlement of versatile entrepreneurs be motivated primarily by a wish to get rich by making things for export? At home, wants? Ms Jacobs' literary approach is such that one suspects she could spin as convincing (or unconvincing) a yarn even were she obliged to substitute the phrase "export-enhancing" for "import-replacing" throughout.

And while the close physical proximity of producers and consumers in cities may once have been vital, the communications revolution renders this thesis extremely implausible in the closing decades of the 20th century. Cities are emptying as world output rises precisely because cities no longer matter. In any case, Ms Jacobs can proffer no convincing explanation of why some cities become successful import-replacers while others remain miserable failures. Why have Hongkong, Singapore and Seoul succeeded while Montevideo, Havana and Wellington have failed? The author's quirky obsession with cities blinds her to important political and sociological factors and causes her to ignore standard micro-economic accounts of consumer and producer behaviour.

Ms Jacobs' most striking claim is perhaps that nations are doomed to economic decline because they smother their dynamic import-replacing cities. Most people will be surprised by this, for it looks, after all, as though New York City is dragging down productive America rather than vice versa. But appearances may be deceptive: New York City has already succumbed to what Ms Jacobs calls "transactions of decline". Cities are undermined, she thinks, because governments siphon off cash into activities in which import-replacing does not and cannot occur. Classic examples are social security programmes, subsidies for depressed regions and military



Booming shopping street in Kowloon (Hong Kong). Jane Jacobs' new book on cities poses the question why some are so much more successful than others

spending: none of these, we are told, can do anything but depress activity in the long-term.

Cities are clobbered in another, more subtle way: the very existence of national currencies is, says Ms Jacobs, inimical to economic development. They serve only to exacerbate the relative uncompetitiveness of poorer regions and smaller cities. Liverpool and its environs might flourish, on her preposterous reasoning, if it could become a sovereign state with its own currency—presumably the Liverpool peso—and win the power to levy special tariffs on goods from London. Faced with this sort of reasoning, most economists will want to hurl Ms Jacobs' book from the nearest window. Anybody familiar with the present chaotic currency markets would urge bigger trading blocks and fewer, rather than more, ran-

domly fluctuating exchange rates.

In spite of the supposed chains imposed by national economies, the world has nonetheless reaped the benefits of dynamic cities. The fact that Ms Jacobs can dump up only two historical examples of apparently successful economic nation—the separation of Norway from Sweden and of Singapore from Malaysia—during the past two centuries of explosive economic growth suggests the fragmentation of sovereign states is of quite marginal importance in economic development. Yet even if much of Ms Jacobs' elaborately woven economic tapestry unravels upon the gentlest possible tug, she deserves credit for attempting to shatter the smug calm of the economic establishment, which seems neither to understand nor care that its theories increasingly fail to explain anything.

Friendly culture-shocks and puzzled Persians

BY ROBIN LANE FOX

The Persians Among the English

by Denis Wright. I. B. Tauris, £17.95, 273 pages

If you connect Persians among the English with eternal students, slogans in the London subway and opium in the diplomatic bag, you ought to read this book. True, the first Iranian students in England left behind a legacy of problems over their visas and unpaid fees. In 1950, their enthusiasm for the Persian Investment Corporation, which was floated on reports that it had acquired the right to own and profit from oilfields in Persian territory. Neither of these promises was altogether realistic. For the rest, there are familiar tales of ruffled pride and some excellent gossip. There is also a touching undercurrent of Anglo-Persian friendships which flourished whenever Englishmen bothered to learn Persian and appreciate Persian history.

Denis Wright has served as Ambassador to Iran and writes with the exact detailed manner of a good memorandum or just obituary. I suspect that he has tracked down many careers which historians might otherwise have forgotten. His book breathes original research, and takes no risks. It is a real addition to knowledge.

Knowledge, though, for what? For centuries Persians implanted on British policy only through India and through the fear that Russia or France might make better headway in a region

which, to most eyes, resembled the Wild West. The interest of much of this book lies in the contact of two unfamiliar cultures and the impression which each formed of the other. Denis Wright tells each example it arises, and some of them are full of fun. Like Regency London, I am left with a soft spot for "Old Persy", the handsome Mirza Abul Hasan who arrived as the first Persian envoy in 1809. He wrote one of those Books of Wonders which see England through Persian eyes.

Denis Wright makes good use of these oddly angled views of the English: London's freedom of the Persian thought, was very impressive, but so was the extraordinary financial ambition of its inhabitants and their sexual abandon, reflected in the number of brothels in every street. The newspapers resented one of these comments by alleging that Abul Hasan had 63 children, four of whom had been born on one day.

In fact, the poor man had only one wife and one child. Originally, he was type-cast as a sexual libertine, when, often, they were not. On his second journey, Abul Hasan did arrive with a mysterious "fair Circassian" girl who caused considerable pique among society women. One London housewife did allege that she was having the Persian's baby, and Abul Hasan did later spin some tremendous tales about his conquests among named English ladies of rank. They were almost certainly false, but he was most impressed by the way

in which Englishwomen kept their figures after bearing ten children. He was also impressed with the country season: "like Arab tribes", he noted, the rich retire to find a "supply of health and vigour for the ensuing winter" in the fresh country air. Those weekend cottages in Dorset, and a sort of summer Bedouin camp, "You see what fun it all is. In 1873, a Shah visited England for the first time and Denis Wright prints a marvellous Agricultural Labourers' Union Ballad, entitled "The Shah", which was sung to the tune of Johnny Comes Marching Home. "Go tell the poor Persians if they would be free/In Unions they must join: heartily/And remove all obstructions/Even though it be the Shah, the Shah, the Shah". He also recalls the visitors who gained an understanding of their own country's past from English scholars and friends.

Perhaps the most treasured example is Jas Sedig, a champion of education in Iran, who wrote warmly of the English into English culture, which he derived from the work of Browne at Cambridge. "I developed a feeling of pride in direct contrast to the feeling of contempt", he wrote, "which had been encouraged in him in France". At the time, Britain still controlled a huge Empire; has any other imperial power ever taught and exported to dependent peoples a sense of respect for their own history and literature?

Fiction

Caught in the steel jaws

BY ISABEL QUIGLY

The Trap

by John Treherne. Jonathan Cape, £7.95, 176 pages

Joanna's Luck

by Mervyn Jones. Plunkett, £8.50, 237 pages

The Enchantress

by Han Suyin. Sidgwick & Jackson, £9.95, 345 pages

There's a sub-section of the English novel where adult life is seen with the child's eye, even if the eye has a sort of bifocal vision: a retrospective maturity. The *Go-Between*, *Morning Glory*, *What Maisie Knew*, John Treherne's *The Trap* is one of these.

A history don in his fifties, James Yeo looks back to childhood and adolescence in north Wiltshire, to Uncle Hector in his Tudor house and Darke Huxford, the poacher, who gave the boy a life-long passion for natural history. The title refers to an ancient man-trap which Uncle Hector puts out in the orchard to catch poachers; hence James's lasting sense of guilt because, by moving the sticks that showed where it was, he let Darke be caught in it. Nearly half a century later the skeleton is found, with identifiable objects: the mystery solved (for James, not for the archaeologists). James's guilt purged, the layers of human experience sliced through (modern bungalows on Uncle Hector's land), and a certain liberation from the dark past achieved.

Finely written and neatly composed, with all kinds of close observations and memories, this is a first novel but not its author's first book. Partly it is a study of the recent past, socially and topographically exact: the slot James's parents fit their way of life, tastes, belongings, routines, the unsophisticated pleasures of the time and the simple way in which a child's world can change from happy to wretched and vice versa—again, seen in terms of the time: a ghastly woman's mood, a Meccano set's failure, the Rupert Bear books, some fleeting fear or relief.

It is so exact, in fact, that some of its observations are almost creepy, like some of James's memories, which have been stylised to become more bearable. Uncle Hector, an outside figure to the boy, has with time become a donnish joke, the subject of well-polished, dinner-table anecdotes, jacked up to a landed grandeur he never quite had; and even the loved Darke has been betrayed into becoming a part of his public mythology of rural childhood, furry, feathery, muddy, to urban friends exotic.

Underlying the picture of a lost world is a less savoury reality. Terrifying though glamorous and occasionally interesting and kind, Uncle Hector is probably a murderer and a sadistic beater of dogs and intruders and, less importantly, in the manner of the time a snob. Back to the Boer War, forward to the present, almost a century is involved, briefly but accurately the personal and the public skilfully plotted: this is an extremely accomplished beginning.

Next, an experienced hand, Joanna's Luck is a good mainstream novel by the author of that excellent saga of working-class life, *Holding On*. Mervyn Jones. This time it's about life as it has become for the off-

spring of the enterprising post-war working class. Joanna's father prospered, in other words, so her story is not just the fairly well-cushioned result of that but the reaction against the generation before hers. Her parents were the 1960s personified, her mother still is, and Joanna has reacted against their promiscuity and generally messy life-style with an eccentric ordinariness.

At 24, in London, she is embarrassed to be a virgin. And, without self-pity, simply from looking at the young, looking at the very look like that, she wouldn't have her problems, others, no doubt, but not specifically Joanna's. It isn't Joanna's luck to be beautiful.

Han Suyin's *The Enchantress* is a part: being "blockbuster" part: sensitive, interesting narrative, like everything else she writes. Set in 18th-century Europe and the Far East, it's an adventure story of wild improbability, though no more improbable than much that we can find in those days. From Vaud in Switzerland, the twins Bea and Colin, heirs to great wealth but imprisoned in their family circumstances, set off to seek their fortune in China as makers of brilliant automata and toys that are almost love-bears of our games-playing computers. War, death, torture, love, witchcraft, violence, disaster, of every sort, and a final touching marriage of illusion and reality: these make a curious not always satisfying mixture, with bursts of remarkable subtle beauty.

Mystery lady

BY ANTHONY CURTIS

The Brandon Papers

by Quentin Bell. Chatto & Windus. The Hogarth Press, £8.95, 214 pages

Detective story? Literary parody? Spoof? Critique of the Edwardian class-system? Retrospective appraisal of the women's movement? *Satire on biography as a profession?* The *Brandon Papers* is all these things and a great deal more.

The papers are pure fiction, but possess a reality more striking than more historical accuracy. Above all, they are as captivating as Lady Brandon herself, the heroine they celebrate.

If this review is beginning to sound weary and evasive, that is inevitable. I want you to read the book without in any way being prejudiced by my "domino effect," a series of moral and physical shocks each one subtly detonated by its predecessor. All I will say is that a mystery surrounds the death of old Lady Brandon whose vast fortune and considerable energies were put at the service of advancing the cause of preventive medicine during her lifetime. The mystery (hardly preys on the mind of a young man who has no blood-letting with the much inter-married Brandon family and he decides to investigate. His researches uncover a pattern of social camouflage that makes the private lives of the public skilfully plotted: this is an extremely accomplished beginning.

Next, an experienced hand, Joanna's Luck is a good mainstream novel by the author of that excellent saga of working-class life, *Holding On*. Mervyn Jones. This time it's about life as it has become for the off-



Detail from a portrait of Lady Brandon, attributed to Whistler by Prof. Quentin Bell

The manner of the book owes something to Dorothy Sayers's *The Documents in the Case* and to A. J. A. Symonds's *The Quest for Corvo*. Its matter is all its own, and arises from Quentin Bell's interest in the history of behaviour and fashion (in the widest sense) as an index of the current morality. Through his understanding of the dress and intonations of the Edwardian period, he has been able to sustain his preposterous notion over a full-length narrative which has a more perfect symmetry than any of the vast he has thrown in the course of his other career in graphics.

Who makes Presidents?

BY JOHN GRAHAM

Packaging the Presidency

by Kathleen Hall Jamieson. Oxford University Press, £19.50, 305 pages

Be honest, now. Did you know that Wets and Dries appear at least as far back as the 1928 presidential election in America? Or that "You never had it so good" was the official Democratic slogan in 1952? Or that among the slogans tried but later discarded by the Democrats in 1968 was "There is no alternative"?

Well, it is not so surprising that we import political catchphrases from the U.S.

America is the home of the snappy one-liner. American politics are more boisterous and inventive than our own, and many an English politician likes to be associated with the glamour, the money, the sense of power that America symbolises. From time to time there is talk of the UK moving towards a more presidential style of government, where advertising men and public relations firms are like worship at the temple of television.

If there is any substance in this, Prof Jamieson's book should be essential reading. It is a history of presidential image-building from the early 19th century till now, with detailed analyses of every campaign since 1952, is from Eisenhower to Reagan. She deals with the nitty-gritty of the campaign trail: how the money is raised; how different aspects of a candidate's personality or policies are emphasised in different regions;

how an image of world leader or family man or whatever is built up and an opponent's slogans turned against him; and so on.

It is a story of smear and sabotage, of hard-boiled hyperbole, where thermonuclear matters may be dismissed as trivial compared with the problem of how to stop the candidate sweating in front of the camera.

But this being America, it is a story rich in incident. Thomas Jefferson remarked that when a man starts coveting political office "a rottenness begins in his conduct," and the rot certainly sets in early. In 1840 William Harrison's media men successfully promoted him as the log-cabin type, despite the fact that the Harrisons' plantation in Virginia was large enough to billet the entire federal army and on one occasion did just that. When the advertising agency's creative director goes to war, truth is the first casualty.

Thus General Eisenhower could unblushingly state: "I have no political ambitions at all." John Kennedy could attack the rising cost of campaigning in 1959, and the following year spend more money securing the presidency than any man before him. Richard Nixon promised to end the Vietnam War, but he fought the war for longer than President Johnson, at greater expense in money and lives. And Ronald Reagan, Mister Honesty himself, pledged: "Within the first 100 days of my Administration I will go to Moscow. I will sit

with President Brezhnev and negotiate a fair arms reduction treaty."

Now there is nothing new about politicians who are sly, devious, self-serving, mendacious and smug. What is relatively new is the suggestion that the wrong man will win (what ever wrong may mean) so long as he has the more talented advertising agency and more money to hand over in television than the other fellow.

Professor Jamieson sensitively comes to no conclusion about this. She identifies certain radio and TV ads and films which were clearly successful and boosted a candidate's position in the polls, as well as others which were calamitous, but adds: "Advertising, whether brilliant or banal, is powerless to dislodge deeply held convictions, anchored in an ample amount of credible information."

The politicians themselves, and the ad-men, seem to agree with this. Some of Robert Kennedy's people believe that with another \$300,000 to spend right at the end of the campaign they would have won; others think that the Vietnam War and the riots at the democratic convention fixed them for good. Gerald Ford remains convinced to this day that he lost to Jimmy Carter because the public disapproved of his pardoning Richard Nixon. Carter in turn was finished off by his inability to rescue the hostages in Iran. Presidents stand or fall by events in the real world, while no amount of Madison Avenue magic can change,



Viscount Tonypandy, the former Speaker of the House of Commons, George Thomas, on his introduction to the House of Lords. His memoirs are reviewed below

Saying "Aye"

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

Mr Speaker: The Memoirs of Viscount Tonypandy

by George Thomas. Century, £9.95, 242 pages

The memoirs of Viscount Tonypandy—still better known, at least outside Wales, as George Thomas, the Speaker of the House of Commons when Parliament was first broadcast—are a mixture of sentiment and anecdote. Some of the sentiment is a bit gushing, though it must be remembered that he has a lot to be gushing about. He really did come up the hard way: from being the son of a drunken and possibly bigamous miner to reading the lesson at the wedding of Prince Charles, which he clearly regards as the high point of his life. He was one of those Labour MPs on whom Methodism was a far more potent influence than Marxism, and indeed the early part of his career was spent fighting the Communists rather than the Tories. He is also deeply patriotic: British rather than Welsh and he believes he may have lost his seat in the Cabinet because of his opposition to Welsh devolution.

Some of the anecdotes are very interesting: for instance, a chance meeting at Cardiff station with a young actor called Jenkins, who turned out to be Richard Burton. There is also a story, previously unknown to me, about the founding of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in which Thomas played a part. Lord Beveridge turned up and announced: "My wife has said that in view of my status and position, I should be chairman" of the first meeting. Thomas demurred. Beveridge telephoned his wife,

was told to withdraw and promptly did so.

There is an ambivalent attitude to his fellow Cardiff MP, James Callaghan, throughout. At the selection committee in Cardiff South in 1944, Callaghan, dressed in naval Lieutenant's uniform, beat Thomas by one vote. They became friends, but only up to a point. Thomas records Callaghan as saying after the 1945 election: "Before the end of this Parliament I shall be in the Government." He had no sympathy for and no understanding of another Welsh MP, Michael Foot, and suggests that Hugh Gaitskell would never have become Prime Minister. Thomas was mainly a Wilson man, though in his last period he seemed to have developed considerable respect for Mrs Thatcher as has Harold Wilson. Some of the judgments and some of the stories are a bit shaky. For example, Jeremy Thorpe was not destroyed by the Liberal Party as Thomas claims. He was destroyed by the Tories for the real reform of Parliament was to make it smaller. "For our small country to have the largest Parliament in the world," he writes, "is ridiculous."

He has produced an entertaining book, but one cannot help noting that he is a better speaker, with a small and large "s," than writer. And that is how he will be remembered.

Sad exit

BY ANTONY THORNCROFT

Wired: The Short Life and Fast Times of John Belushi

by Bob Woodward. Faber & Faber, £12.50, 416 pages

Bob Woodward, the Water-gate sleuth, has written a long, tedious book about a short, exciting life. His biography of John Belushi reads like a succession of short news para-

graphs about an overweight comedian who first appeared in a successful TV series, *Saturday Night Live* (an American version of *That Was the Week That Was*) and then a money-making film, *Animal House*, and who died from drug abuse at the age of 33 in 1982.

A paragraph at random encapsulates the fact-laden style. "Tom Scott, the 33-year-old jazz saxophonist from the Blues Brothers, rolled over in his bed in Los Angeles early Sunday morning, September 27. He popped open his eyes in bewilderment."

Not because Woodward was in bed with him at the moment, notebook handy to register the eye popping, but because Woodward, plus researchers, interviewed 217 quoted witnesses, and 50 who wisely preferred discretion, and he wants his diligence to show. Ironically by piling unimportant detail on top of irrelevant fact the character of Belushi becomes completely elusive. He seems boorish, condescending, insecure and, judging by the ponderously reproduced transcripts of his television

sketches, quite unfunny. No wonder Belushi's wife, who in a moment of *folie de grandeur* asked Woodward to commemorate her husband, was appalled by the results.

Yet if Belushi disappears from view through the opinions of his associates, his world is exposed as never before—or at least the seamy side of it. *Wired* makes it abundantly clear that the film, TV and record industries in the U.S. are propped up by drugs, in particular cocaine, although anything else to hand will be snuffed, swallowed, or injected.

A high proportion of stars' salaries go on drugs and there is something very credible in a spontaneous performer like Belushi needing larger and larger doses to give him the confidence to do his act. In the hands of a more humorous writer the scenes where Belushi's minder, "Smokesy" Wendell, dashes around retrieving from lavatory cisterns the cocaine which Belushi's "friends" are trying to slip him, would be funny. Woodward makes them ponderous.

A WHACK ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD

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ANGUS & ROBERTSON

HOW TO SPEND IT

Thoroughly modern cashmere

IN OUR London road, a sprinkling of ice still lies lurking in corners, more local than the legendary banana-skin, ready to trip up the unprepared. Our central heating is on full blast, the weather reports predict sleet and snow. And the shops, wouldn't you know, are full of bikinis and skimpy summer cottons.

So if you feel like stocking-up on woollies where do you go? Well, you could try starting at The Scotch House where cashmere and British knits are an all-the-year-round business. A true-blue traditional firm which has long been a compulsory stopping-off post for any well-heeled tourist, it has been primarily sought-after for its classic garments made from materials of impeccable quality. Nobody has thought to go to it for high-fashion.

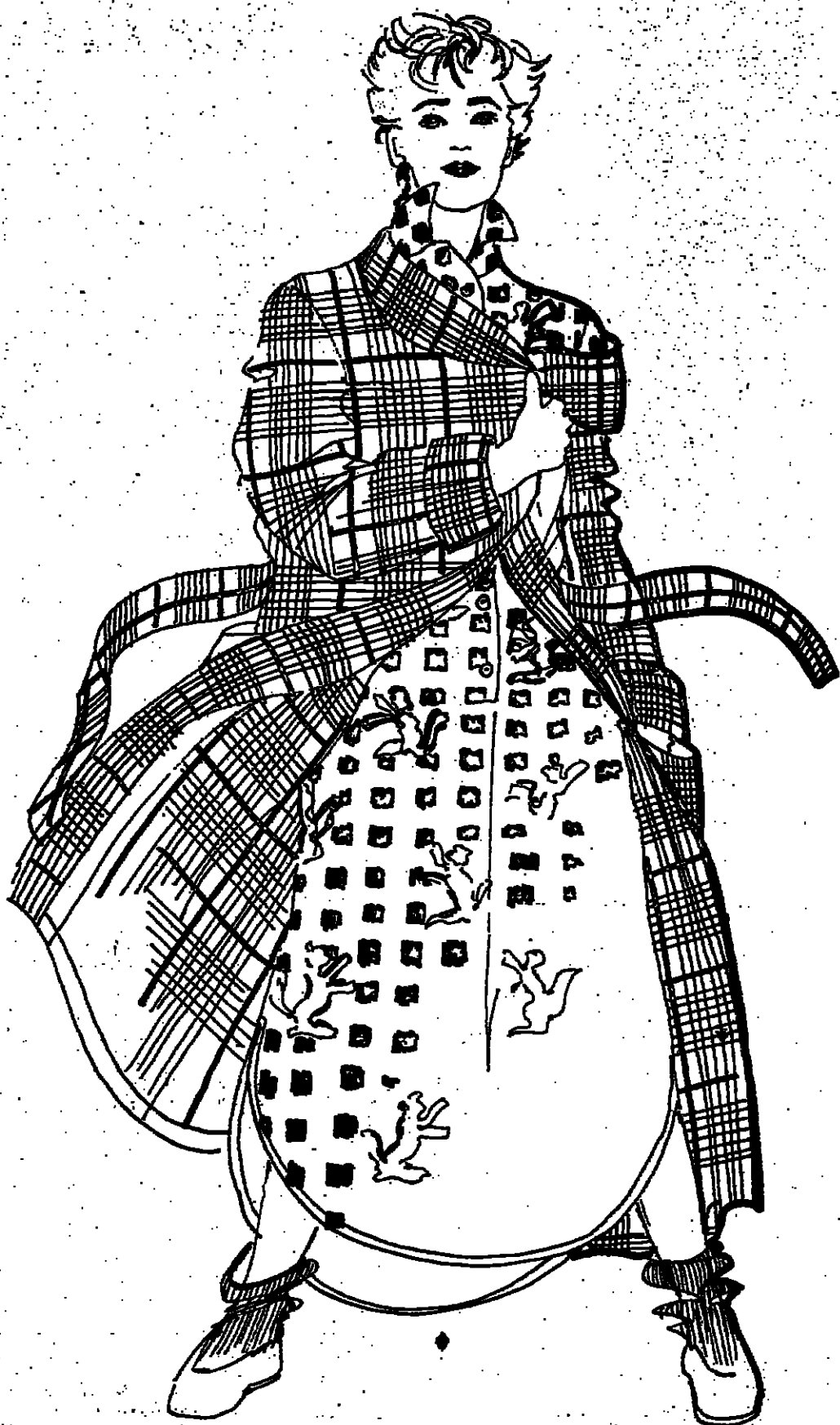
However, things are changing. Not too fast, of course. Not enough to shock or startle but enough, if the judgment is right, to bring in a whole new generation of home-grown customers who want more than a traditional shape in fine wool—they want a certain amount of fashionability as well.

Of all the new ranges probably the most interesting is its collection of cashmere. Classic round-necks, crew-necks and cowl-necks have been the staple of the collection and will probably always be in demand, but look carefully among the shelves. There you will see cashmeres with the subtle detailing that spells today instead of yesterday. Many have deeper armholes, wider bodies, some have dropped sleeves, there are low-necked longline Twenties-style shapes and crinkling ones with deep v-necks that wouldn't look out of place at Lords. Then there are fifty skinny-ribs, reflecting the Fifties influence and chunky cable-knits with interesting collar-lines.

The main branch of The Scotch House in Knightsbridge has been so encouraged by increasing cashmere sales that it has given over a corner entirely to them and calls it The Cashmere Shop. Already it is hugely successful. For summer look out for finer, single-ply cashmeres in cream, baby blue, lemon yellow, sugar pink.

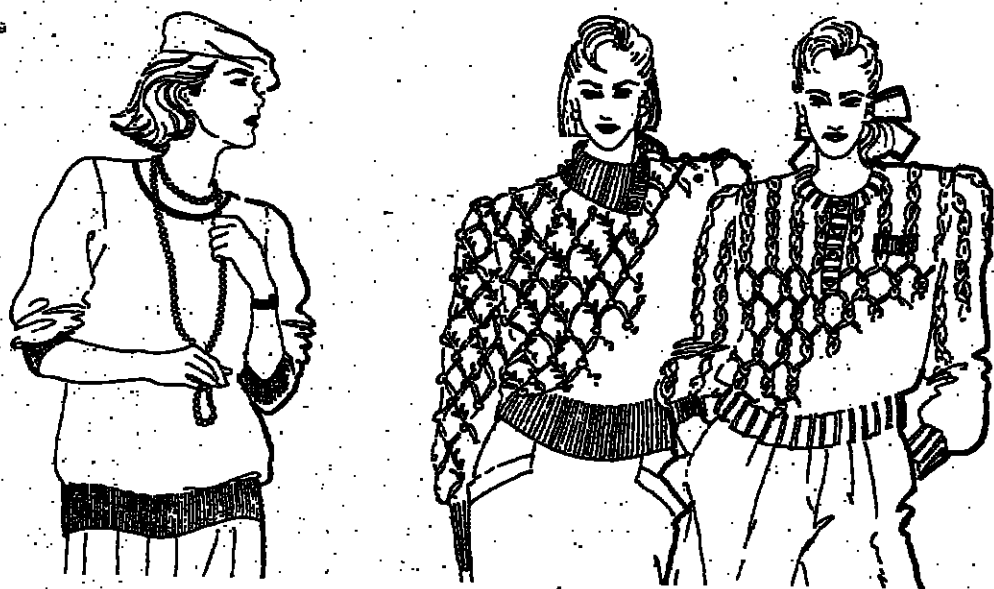
The traditional trousers have been given equally subtle treatment—many of the materials used are still the same (though a few more, like grey flannel, have been added) but the shapes are all easier and infinitely more comfortable. As Jean Bennett, The Scotch House PRO, who has worked with it on updating the image, puts it: "Too many English women stuff themselves into trousers that are too tight—it's bad for the appearance, bad for the health and certainly bad for the trousers. Almost any woman can look slim in a pair of trousers that are well-cut and hang loose." So bigger, looser trousers made from the same high quality fabrics with pleated fronts are on the rails. As for the night-wear—if the new nightshirts aren't seen being worn on the streets Jean Bennett is personally going to be very disappointed. The collection uses some traditional fabrics (the ever-popular tartans, grouse and medallion designs) and some very up-to-the-minute soft, flowered cottons. There are dressing-gowns with easier, seamier sleeves, deeper armholes, better wrap and a good long length which co-ordinate with the capacious pyjamas or nightshirts. In Viyella, they are perfect for draughty houses; in cotton, lovely for summer.

All this is now available in more and more towns throughout the country. The Scotch House shops in Chester, Blackpool, Guildford and Cardiff have recently opened and up to 20 more are planned for the coming year.



Roomy Viyella dressing-gown in traditional prints and tartans are £95 (p+p £1.33, insurance 65p). It co-ordinates with 100 per cent cotton night-shirts—this one sports a rampant lion, £65 (p+p £1.33, 55p insurance) from The Scotch House, 2-12 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1

Drawings by Celia Baker



Above left to right. Roomy, long-line Twenties-style cashmere jumper, a Ben Frankel design for Ballantyne. In a wide range of colours, including a soft corn yellow, it is £125. A hand-knitted asymmetrical-coloured jumper in a wide range of colours designed exclusively for The Scotch House, £185. Another new-look cashmere jumper, this time in a chunky rib and again in lots of colours. The Scotch House own label, £195. All can be posted for £1.33 each, insurance is 75p, £1.10 and £1.15 respectively

Potted Versions

BY PHILIPPA DAVENPORT

HOM-MADE thick cut Seville orange marmalade is hard to beat for breakfast. But there are two things I hold against it. First, the bitter orange season is maddeningly brief, often over before I've managed to slot a marmalade-making session into my schedule. Second, cutting the peel by hand is both tedious and very time consuming. (I know, it can be done in minutes using a food processor or mincer, but the results are very uneven).

In contrast the jelly marmalade recipe given below presents no such problems and, in addition to making a delicious breakfast-time preserve, I find it valuable as an ingredient in cooking. It is a less cloyingly sweet than the usual apricot glaze given to fruit tarts, and it is more sophisticated than the raspberry jam traditionally used in that best of all follow-ups to the Sunday roast, Queen of Puddings.



Pauline Rosenthal

PINK GRAPEFRUIT AND LEMON JELLY MARMALADE

Makes about 5 lb

2 pink grapefruit, 4 lemons, 4 pints water; 3 lb preserving or granulated sugar.

Pare the fruit, using long strokes of a citrus zester to remove the aromatic rind in ribbon-like shreds, and reserve. Quarter the pared lemons and cut the pared grapefruit into one-eighths. Put both fruits into a food processor and reduce to a pulp.

Put the pulp into a large pan, and 3 pints of water and the shreds of zest tied up in butter-muslin. Cover tightly and simmer for one hour. Remove and reserve the bag of shreds. Cover the pan again and sim-

mer for one hour more.

Tip the contents of the pan into a scalded jelly bag and let it drip for ten minutes. Return the pulp to the pan, add another pint of water and simmer for 20 minutes. Strain as before but leave to drip for 45 minutes.

Put all the strained juice into the cleaned out pan. When warm add the sugar and stir over low heat until the sugar has completely dissolved. Then add the shreds and fast boil until setting point is reached. Dip a wooden spoon into the marmalade and twist it to cool it slightly. If setting point has been reached, the marmalade will not drip runnily from the spoon but will congeal into "flakes".

Skim then cool for 10-15 minutes before stirring well to

suspend the shreds in the jelly. Put in clean warm jars and cover immediately with waxed paper discs. Tie down when cold.

MARMALADE QUEEN OF PUDDINGS

(serves 5-6)

1 pt creamy milk; the finely grated zest of 1 lemon, orange or grapefruit; 2 oz butter; 3-4 oz caster sugar; 5 oz fresh breadcrumbs; 4 large eggs; 4-5 tablespoons jelly marmalade (preferably pink grapefruit and lemon).

Scald the milk with the citrus zest in a medium-sized saucepan. Away from the heat, stir in the diced butter and 1 oz sugar. When melted, stir in the breadcrumbs and set the pan aside for 10 minutes.

Separate the eggs and beat the yolks, one at a time, into the swollen breadcrumb mixture. Turn the creamy custard into a well buttered pie dish of 2½ pt capacity and bake at 350 F (180 C) gas mark 4 for 25-30 minutes until barely set.

Warm the marmalade in a small pan. Whisk the egg whites to stiff snowy peaks, gradually beating in 2-3 oz caster sugar depending on the degree of sweetness you like. Carefully spoon the warm marmalade over the surface of the pudding, and pile the meringue on top, taking it onto the rim of the dish to seal the custard inside.

Return the dish to the oven and bake for about 15 minutes until the billowing clouds of meringue are softly set and streaked with pale gold. Serve hot or warm with pouring cream.

by Lucia van der Post

This and That

RIGHT IN TUNE with today's mood for soft, fresh country-house prettiness is Richard Giori's 240-year-old design, Granduca. The founder of one of the world's oldest porcelain companies, begun in 1735, near Florence, Giori is being celebrated in a special exhibition of the company's porcelain currently on show at Liberty of Regent Street, London W1. The porcelain is of the finest quality, and designs spanning the company's entire history will be on display. However, star of the show is undoubtedly Granduca which has not been in production since 1755 until the company decided to resurrect it for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the company. Granduca, and five other Giori designs, will be held by Liberty as part of its regular stock after the exhibition is over. Porcelain of this quality isn't cheap—for instance, a 10½ in dinner plate is £24.65, the 3.85-litre tureen is £232.85, while a teacup and saucer are £26.90.

EVER SINCE my husband, when recovering from pneumonia, was prescribed a quarter-bottle of champagne before lunch and dinner and thereafter made a record recovery we have tried similarly to live up the hospital days of our friends and relations when they were ill. Until you've tried it you have no idea how difficult it is to find anybody prepared to take orders by telephone and then deliver it to the given address. Which is why the address of The London Champagne Service, 48, Wicklow Street, London WC1X 9HL has found its way firmly into my Filofax. (Tel: 01-278 6199)

It deals only in champagne, in all the leading names and sizes, from quarter bottles (though they are, as everywhere, very expensive when compared with the cost of full bottles) up to the giant Salamanazar and including the very fashionable pink champagne as well as the ultra dry.

The minimum order is a case but it can be delivered to any address you name, with deliveries outside London being subject to an additional charge.

Careful perusal of the price list leads me to the conclusion that buying quarter-bottles is in fact a bad idea—a case of 48 quarters of non-vintage, Mumm or Moët et Chandon is £105 2 case, while a case of 24 halves of the House Selection is 67—whilst a case of full bottles of House Selection is just £63—much better to buy the full bottles and a good champagne stopper.



BACK SUFFERERS in the north might be interested to know that there is a back-care supplier in Kearsley, Lancashire, which will supply them with most of the known existing aids. The Posturite Back Care Emporium is at 5-7, Bolton Road, Kearsley, Bolton, Lancashire—in particular it sells the Balans range of chairs (described on this page a few weeks ago) and it is happy to offer them on a free, no obligation three-day trial to interested readers.

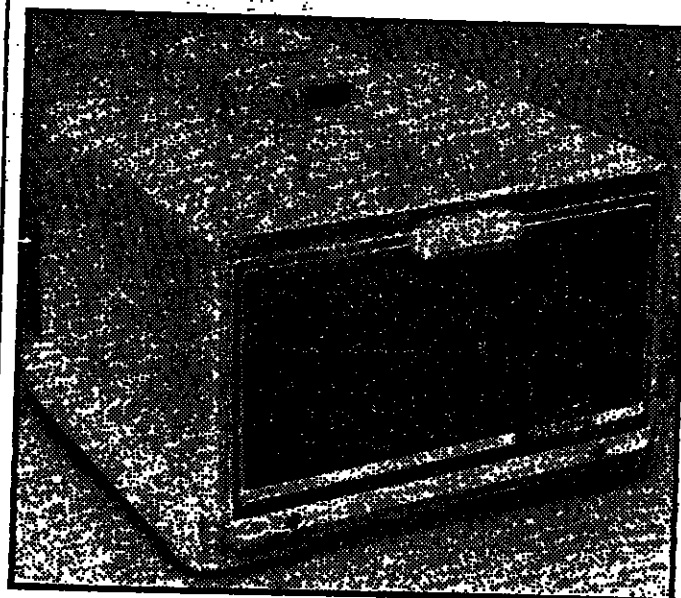
THE RESPONSE to the Heat Pak I mentioned last week has been such as to suggest that half the country could do with being a lot warmer. For the old, for those who live in houses it isn't possible to heat properly or for those who just feel the cold abnormally badly, there is a new "cotton sleeper" which helps to keep chilly mortals warm in bed. Based on an old Chinese solution, the cotton sleepers are made of very thick (almost 2 in) light sandwich of natural raw cotton, which is used as an underblanket. Cotton, it appears, has the unique quality of being able to absorb and disperse moisture. Much cold at night is caused by the "refrigeration effect" which happens when moisture evaporates. The cotton sleeper helps prevent this heat loss. They come in three sizes, single £39.50, double, £53.50 and large double, £62.50 from Cottonfields, 37, Kew Road, P.O. Box 43, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2NF.

Antique lustreware is much sought-after and fetches fancy prices in posh antique shops but those who love the burnished tones of this very special ware might like to know that antiques aren't the only option.

A few modern potters still produce lustreware today, among them a Cumbrian potter, Tobias Harrison, who is making some particularly attractive handthrown jugs and lamp bases. He glazes them in his own inimitable way to get the rich, glowing colours typical of the ware.

The three jugs pictured here are all on sale at Toulemonde-Bochart at Divertimenti, 139-141, Fulham Road, London, SW3. The smallest is 3½ in high (£18.99), the medium size is 3½ in high (£20.50), while the largest is 4½ in high (£21.75). Also in the range are three sizes of lamp base—12 in high (£38.35), 13 in high (£42.68) and 15 in high (£46.02).

Weights and Means

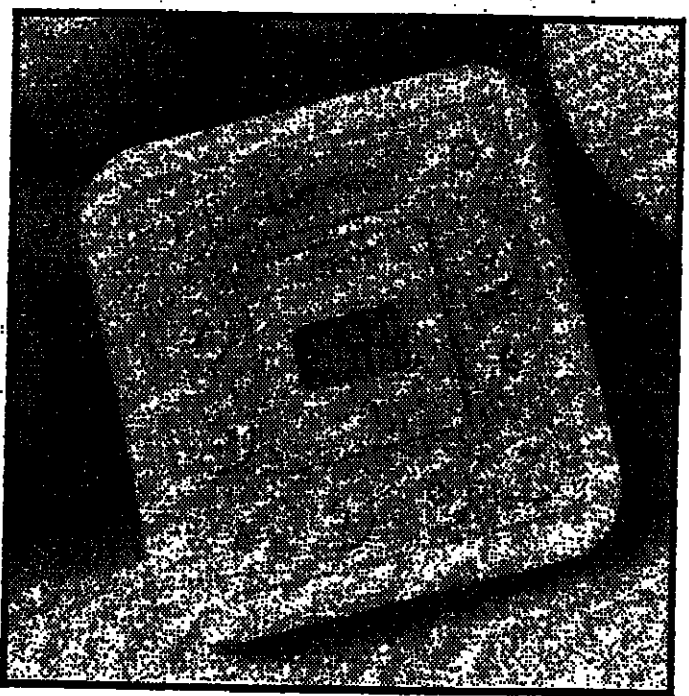


LEFT

THINKING SMALL? If you've element alone can be turned on and used for finishing off a student son or daughter to think about, the Vivalto oven is extraordinarily neat and accommodating. It measures only 12 in by 12 in and 8½ in and though you clearly wouldn't be able to roast a family-sized turkey in it, it can cope with a chicken weighing as much as 4 lb or a grand-looking crown of lamb. Because it has two separate elements, one at the top, one at the bottom, the top

RIGHT

THE FIRST in a new generation of scales—the Avery electronic scale is heralded as a health scale because it also gives you the calories, fat, carbohydrate or fibre content of the foods in the bowl. How, I hear you ask, does an electronic device know what is in the bowl? The answer is, it doesn't—you do and you have to press an alarming number of keys to make sure you get the right answer out of the display panel. It is all a little bit sophisticated for somebody like me who finds it hard enough to grapple with grammes and ounces without added complications but for somebody who enjoys reading instruction booklets, likes messing about with push-buttons and really minds about calories, fibre, carbohydrate and the rest of the health-conscious jargon, it could be a nice new kitchen toy. Besides, it actually works very nicely as a simple scale—it has clean, simple lines, you can switch from grammes to ounces and back again and you can add to ingredients in the bowl without emptying it first. If you don't use the extra sophisticated features, though, it is quite expensive, £44.95 (p and p £1.80) from Lakeland Plastics, Alexandra Buildings, Windermere, Cumbria.



LEFT

MOST BUSY cooks need a kitchen timer and lovely though those old-fashioned wooden egg-timers look they are nothing like as practical as their starker but more functional rivals—the new digital timers. Lorus has just produced a very neat little gadget which can be set to time anything up to 99 minutes—from a soft-boiled egg to a sponge cake. When the pre-set time has run out the device emits a beeping sound which goes on becoming louder until it has been switched off, so that even the busiest shouldn't find it easy to ignore. In five different colourways (so that you can match your kitchen colour scheme, I suppose) it costs £8.50 and is widely available from kitchen departments and shops like H. Samuel and James Walker.



Handmade Period Furniture

Handmade Period Furniture. Huge range of 17th & 18th century styles in solid English oak. Also in pine. SWS up to 40% for simple assembly at home. Or supplied complete. Send 36p stamps for brochures or VISITORS WELCOME AT SHORT NOTICE BY APPOINTMENT. JACOBUS WOODSHOP, Dept 177

THE ARTS

A riveting view of war

Anyone who believes that film festivals are all about lying in the sun, guzzling cool drinks and sipping topless starlets should visit Berlin in February. Snow hurls down the Kurfürstendamm, topless starlets are conspicuous by their absence, icy blasts sting the visage, and frozen film critics stagger from one cinema to another—in search not so much of culture as of survival. This has been the coldest Berlin winter since 1941: perhaps the organisers should now think of moving quarters to somewhere more temperate, like Lapland or Vladivostok.

How wonderful a 44-hour film festival seems in this context! You can stay warm for the equivalent of three movies in a row. But Masaki Kobayashi's *The Tokyo Trial* would be riveting in any climate. Licensed to plunder footage from 30,000 reels of Pentagon archive film relating to World War II and the International Military Tribunal for the Far East—which tried 28 Japanese prisoners (including generals and ex-prime ministers) for crimes of war—Kobayashi has produced an outstanding document of human evil, folly and miscarried idealism.

The evil is that of Japanese expansionism and the barbarous methods used to enforce it. The folly is the succession of miscalculations by both the Japanese and America, which underestimated the other side's strength and allowed the Far East war to stagger on until only the Bomb could stop it. The miscarried idealism is the Allies' attempt to bring Western law to bear—and post hoc facto law at that—on the inscrutable mysteries of Japanese pride and nationalism.

Given this rare mix of tragedy and comedy, it hardly matters how much Kobayashi is maddeningly partisan. His narrator offers exactly a word of open or implied condemnation for Japanese imperialism or cruelty. Indeed, the film's technique is to swing smartly away to another topic whenever the going looks like getting rough for the defendants (we've only just begun the "atrocities" section, so quite incomprehensibly to some me Tokyo strike footage. When we return to the trial, we're moved on to a completely new subject).

Meanwhile, every possible brickbat or sarcasm is aimed at the tribunal and the prosecutors: Ma sometimes deserved, as with the erratic doings of the Australian presiding judge (who slips off home in mid-trial to do some

Nigel Andrews reports on icy blasts and barbarism at Berlin's film festival

work Down Under), but more often gratuitous. The secret, of course, is to take both commentary and editing with an almighty grain of salt and simply gaze goggle-eyed at the raw footage. This includes not just the trial film, containing such wonders as the Outraged U.S. Defence Counsel (dismissed from trial) when he gives the Aussie judge a wigging. And the Barry Defiant (who suddenly slips his head into a fellow-prisoner's stands up and starts jabbering, and is then led away to be diagnosed as a tertiary syphilitic). But it also features amazing unseen war footage from both Europe and the Far East and a brilliantly concise account of Japan's Manchurian adventures, which laid the groundwork for their expansionist activities in World War II.

What the film gives us is a microscope on the Japanese mind, from the bushido ethics of courage and self-sacrifice (we see kamikaze pilots going into action) to the dotty stoicism of the emperor, who tells his people: "Beware of any outbreak of emotion which might complicate the situation."

And there are two shots that should be anthologised among the great moments of cinema for showing how closely far-eastern and Western law to bear—and post hoc facto law at that—on the inscrutable mysteries of Japanese pride and nationalism.

Still, Patrick Stewart's *Creon* was masterful, Lucy Gutteridge's *Antigone* was brave and never pathetic, a quality *Antigone* would have disdained.

and tragedy rub shoulders at crisis points in history. In one, a doomed prime minister defies his fate to the people and a price tag falls out. In the other, a Japanese prisoner hearing his sentence read has his translation earphones lifted off him by a court guard before he is discovered if it's to be "life" or death. The frantic rapidity with which he seizes them back shows that even the Japanese, when it really matters, can be as scrutable as the rest of us.

With this year's Main Competition featuring films to which you wouldn't take your worst enemy—from Egon Günther's colonial African romance *Morgue* (shot in a sackcloth blur of brown and even more blurrily conceived) to Sadao Nakajima's *Sabari Story* from Japan (about one of those remote peasant tribes where the women all wear perfect film-star complexions)—it's been documentaries all round that have stolen the attention.

Robert Epstein's *The Times of Harvey Milk* is the amazing tale of the San Francisco gay rights leader and city supervisor who in 1978 was shot dead, along with the mayor, by a far-right fanatic. The portrait of Milk is built up so sympathetically—by friends and even converted enemies—that by movie's end there's hardly a dry Kleenex in the house. But the film is also a tough little call for reason and tolerance (and intolerance of intolerance) and no wonder it won last year's New York Film Critics Award.

Also stealing thunder on the fringes were Kazuo Inoue's



Harvey Milk, San Francisco's murdered gay rights leader.

Lined, But... a loving film portrait, speckled with interview and movie excerpts, of the late great Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu; and Guyula Gerdag's *Group Excursion*, in which a group of Hungarian Auschwitz survivors revisit the camp.

The unstoppable Werner Herzog also has unveiled two new documentaries. One, *The Dark Side of the Mountain*, is about a climbing expedition in Pakistan and is the usual Herzog mixture of mysticism, mountains and madness. But the other is a political time-bomb lobbed at the Left called

Ballad of the Little Soldiers: about the anti-Sandinista guerrilla forces being formed by Nicaragua's Miskito Indians. Survivors of depopulation raids on their villages by the Communist forces, they prepare for retaliation in Honduran refugee camps where ex-members of the National Guard train them in the use of grenades, automatic rifles and mortar bombs.

Most of the trainees are small children (nine and over), and it's a shuddersome spectacle to see them being reared so young in the school of death.

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Even so Lenin gave him a post

Antony Thornecroft looks at an ailing enterprise
Riverside's date with destiny

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS, the west London arts centre that has combined an awesome artistic reputation with the financial acumen of a drunken sailor, seems set once again to rise from the dead.

Last month, the Arts Council announced it was withdrawing Riverside's 1985-86 grant—£103,500 in the present year—because it had failed to balance its books, the condition for further help. But, as in past crises, the GLC, which is providing £466,000 this year, has made encouraging noises. It has given no firm promises but Graham Marchant, who was brought in last October on a three-month assignment to try to establish financial order, is confident it will at least maintain its bid. He has fixed his 1985-86 budget on such an assumption and, last week, somewhat belatedly completed his stint at the studios.

He left it still with a deficit of £155,000 on an annual turnover of £1.2m. So, taken with the loss of the Arts Council's £100,000, Riverside Studios has somehow to reduce its costs in the next financial year by around £250,000 to break even. This time, there can be no failure. Even the GLC has linked its future to the appointment of a business-like administrator, and he has balanced budgets. By an extra irony, this time next year, because of the disappearance of the GLC, the subsidising of Riverside again will become the full responsibility of the Arts

Council. So, the Riverside has 12 months to prove itself.

It will be a tough challenge. An arts centre justifies itself by its work. One inevitable consequence of the present deficit is that the two studios have been closed to creative work for the first three months of 1985, and leased out to television companies. Even after April, one studio will still be used in this way, restricting Riverside to just one outlet for new work.

And for the next year, at least, it will not be its own work that would be too much of a financial risk. It will be playing host to visiting companies. Fortunately, the new policy promises to get off to a strong start with appearances by the Colletto Perna of Italy, Suzuki of Japan, and an American company to co-incide with the American arts festival in London. The Japanese are sponsored by Mitsui, and there are high hopes of finding sponsors for the other companies. Riverside will therefore, re-open with its reputation for the theatrical avant-garde confirmed.

But how did it get into such a mess? The basic problem was that the various managers responsible for budget areas did not keep tight financial controls and were unaware that they were running-up losses. In addition, optimistic forecasts were made on box-office revenue. Marchant established fixed budgets and tried to ensure that if there was over-spending in one month it would be saved in the next.

It also was unfortunate that the one Riverside production last year, *Sea Change*, by Stephen Lowe, received poor reviews and did badly at the box office. This can quickly create problems. It costs around £15,000 a week to run Riverside, while box-office revenue in a good week is £5,000. Subsidy just about bridges the gap, but a succession of mistakes rapidly builds-up a deficit.

Riverside's dependence on the GLC also is something of a two-edged sword. The GLC made clear it would not supply the cash if any of the workforce of nearly 60 was sacked, and also scuppered plans to lease one studio to a video company with South African links. Even the GLC seems prepared to give redundancies on top of natural wastage. By leasing out a studio, some savings on the wages bill, and brisker marketing, Marchant hopes to have

left Riverside with a survival plan.

He is particularly keen that the new chief executive should look at contracts more carefully. Riverside can get full houses and excellent reviews by having an imaginative foreign company to the studios, but the cost of transporting and accommodating a sizeable troupe makes the venture very expensive. It also has not done enough to exploit money-making opportunities, like video rights and look for transfers to the West End.

David Gothard, the artistic director, who has been at Riverside since it opened in 1976, intends to stay on. He points out how the continental cast ethos absorbs time, destroy planning, and force the studios to get involved with politics rather than concentrating on artistic achievement. But he stresses that even without current productions, the space still is alive with rehearsal and discussions by actors, writers, and dancers.

As usual with Riverside, there always is another possible solution to its endemic financial problems on the horizon. Plans to rebuild the site and make use of the studios, access to the River Thames have disappeared into the distant future, but the local Hamamshire council, when stopping revenue aid a few years ago did promise that when the adjacent site was sold for commercial development, Riverside would receive half the increase in site value. It could come to £500,000.

Marchant has moved on to try to bring back to life an arts venture much more moribund than the Riverside—the disused Playhouse Theatre on the Embankment. But like most people associated with Riverside, he is both exasperated and exhilarated by the place. It must be one of the great arts institutions that tickle by its artistic commitment and appears quite impervious to financial pressures. It has passed through bankruptcy, closure and last minute reprieves with a quite staggering insouciance. This time, it really does have just a year to confirm its artistic importance, to market its potential more successfully, and to avoid another cash crisis, and it will have to do it on much less subsidy than it is now receiving. The board of the Riverside will be making one of its most crucial decisions when it appoints the new administrator.

From Greece to Gorky with some clichés in between

RADIO

B. A. YOUNG

Anten Lesser worked so hard to give Hamon a boyish voice that it sounded almost like a girl's. As a special bonus there was Robert Edson as Thrasylas, with the most beautiful speaking voice the radio ever gives us.

The BBC had the courtesy (a quality in which I find them lavish) to send me a script of last week's Saturday Night Play, *The Serpent's Smile* by Neville Teller, adapted from a novel by Olga Hesky. Perhaps they thought that if I read it I wouldn't actually trouble to hear it, but I did. I feel terribly mean in having to report that I thought it a very bad thriller indeed, about the secret police in Israel searching for the most terrible war weapon yet.

It was full of cliché situations, unchanged by being situated in Israel instead of America or Russia or Great Britain. The director, John Cardy, had a great time working in such background noises as the mooing and grunting of a camel. The playing was as full of clichés as the writing.

There was an interesting programme on Radio 3 yesterday, *A Curious Friendship*, in which Michael Shenton traced the long-standing association between Lenin and Gorky. They met originally in Kazan, young Peshkov and young Ulyanov,

and both devoted themselves to the overthrow of society. From the time of the fifth party congress in London in 1907, their ways began to diverge; and yet, Lenin took a brotherly, almost paternalistic view of Gorky's welfare, even checking the sheets in his bed to see that they were dry.

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as commissioner for the preservation of museums; and his fellow-God-builders, Lunacharsky and Bogdanov, were given work as well. Gorky tried to publish propaganda for his kind of view, but such things were at once censored out of existence. If Gorky had been anyone else, he would assuredly have been shot; yet, though Lenin urged him constantly to go abroad, back to his home in Capri where the God-builders had done much of their early planning, he was alive and writing until after Lenin's death.

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LEISURE

Gerald Cadogan on a slice of Oxford life
Beyond the dreaming spires

N WOODSTOCK the Oxfordshire County Museum stays open to show the history of the county when that great part of 1, Blenheim Palace, is shut for the season. The museum puts Blenheim and the Woodstock church—which was also shut when we went there—into an historical perspective of many centuries. You will discover in an intelligent and enjoyable display the long life of Oxfordshire without Oxford, something that many who spend three years in the city never discover.

The Oxfordshire County Museum is the more interesting because the county lacks the spectacular ancient heritage—both monuments and "finds"—that you see in Wiltshire or Dorset. Instead, there is a solid but lively account of the geography, archaeology and recent history, which infuses the colleges and abbeys and great houses with the spirit of place and puts them in the setting to which they belong. In the history of the use of the land and its resources you see the economic base of the county and still that of the colleges as well.

Oxford itself, of course, has been transformed by major industry, the Cowley motor works, which began in the centre of the city. When I was an undergraduate there was an old man who repaired bicycles swiftly in Holywell, not far from where William Morris (Lord Nuffield) began. Unfortunately, he started—and stayed—with bicycles while Morris moved from bicycles to cars.

Morris had an industrial predecessor in Cowley, the latter Volvulus of the later second century AD. We know his name from his stamp, which you will see at Woodstock. Those stamps are a useful way of gauging trade in the ancient world; for the ancient they had the same function as the marks on the undersides of plates nowadays.

Though Volvulus is the only potter whose name we know, he had plenty of colleagues in a flourishing industry in Cowley and Headington on the east side of Oxford. They used local materials, Oxford Clay, and wood from the higher ground

to fire the kilns. They were along the road from Dorchester, the crossing of the Thames that preceded that at Oxford, to Alchester, which is near Wendebury where an exit is planned for the new part of the M40. The motorway is the first real attempt in this country at a main road system not based on that of Roman Britain.

Headington was much later a site of another of the industries of Oxfordshire, stone quarrying. Headington stone has not weathered well. The slates from Stonefield have done much better. In the 19th century there was some making of agricultural machinery in the county, and from the late 18th century coal could be brought cheaply down the Oxford Canal. Wood had become scarce. The coal also powered the making of bricks for the new industrial suburbs such as Jericho, built around the University Press works in Walton Street, or Girsbury in Banbury.

In many ways industry is the oddity in the history of Oxfordshire. Arable farming and grazing have been the permanent mark of life in the county, from at least as early as the neolithic pits for storing grain at Sutton Courtenay to the Banbury market in Europe in Banbury of today. It is ideal country for sheep, and for cereals. Since the ploughing of what had been pasture in World War II, cereals have grown at the expense of sheep. Yet there are still plenty of sheep in Oxfordshire, even in North Oxford in the fields behind Summertown.

A Saxon settlement of sunken huts at Eynsham has produced examples of the best evidence for spinning and weaving that archaeologists are likely to find. Short of the rare chance of finding cloth, spindle whorls and loom weights are the clue. Spindle whorls are usually of stone and on the bottom of a spinning stick and make it revolve. Loom weights are usually of clay and have holes or eyes for tying the threads of the warp of a vertical loom. Thus they maintain the correct tension while the cloth is woven.

There is nothing special to the Saxons in the use of spindle whorls and loom weights. They are a regular part of early cultures. Often they are found only by ones and twos, but we archaeologists always hope to find the weights in a group, because a concentration of them in one spot shows more or less where the loom had been. In the grand buildings of Minster Cretes, for example, that was often on an upper floor from which the weights had fallen. The best instance is the Loom Weight Basement at Knossos where Sir Arthur Evans found several hundreds.

Saxon weaving leads to the blankets of Wilton or the tweed from the Bliss mill at Chipping Norton with its redoubtable chimney; there is a display of the tweeds in the Museum in Woodstock. The sheep also paid for the handsome town houses of the wool merchants in Burford that emanate wealth—just as the wine trade houses do in Burgundy—and for the great churches of the region, such as Fairford or Northleach. With the corn they were a staple ingredient of the abbeys and country houses.

The 17th and 18th century country houses, with their farms and parks (where the animals could be kept), were not the first of their type in Oxfordshire. The villas of the Romans, ranging from simple farmhouses to grand country houses with elaborate mosaic pavements (there was one at Stansfeld), similarly show wealth, ownership of the land and a sense of security. At Chedworth in Gloucestershire, for instance, which is with the National Trust, the villa was supported by wool, as you may see if you go there.

The museum shapes our view of Oxfordshire by showing the many continuities—and the discontinuities—in the use of the land. It is an immediate way of making history and relating the past to ourselves because we still see the land alive and being farmed. With modest imagination we may still appreciate Oxfordshire as Oxoniens have appreciated it for thousands of years.

ing the Channel at the White Cliffs of Dover in 1908. It was to advertise Gabriel Borel's powerful acetylene lights, and was found in a hotel in Bourne-mouth where Borel had once stayed.

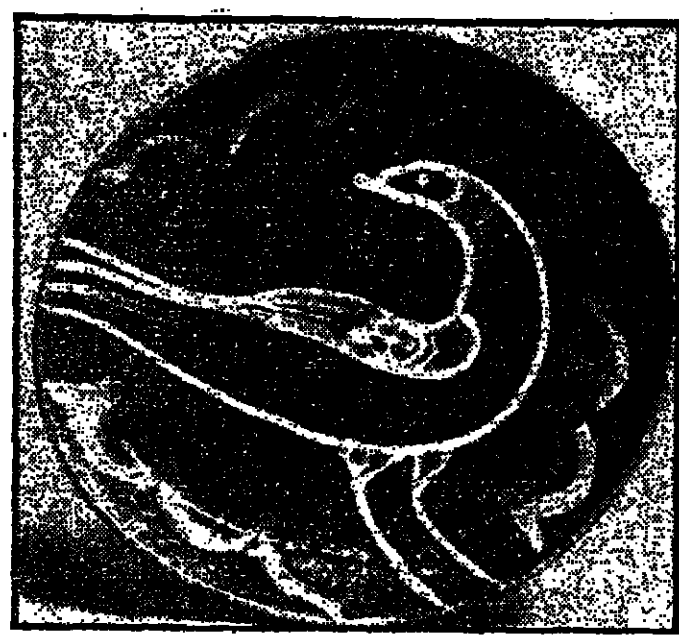
Also being auctioned are some of the 5th Earl Howe's naval and astronomical books, watercolours and prints. The earl (1884-1964), descendant of the famous 18th century Admiral Howe, was a well-known Brooklands racing driver, and was ADC to King George V between 1925 and 1928.

A most important lot, which has already attracted attention from the Imperial War Museum, is a collection of 400 photographic negatives, compiled during the First World War when the earl, as Commander Curzon served as first photographic officer of the Second Battle Squadron.

The most splendid bidding, of course, will undoubtedly come from those anxious to fill the gaps of their indispensable Jane's Fighting Ships annuals. (These were first published in 1888)

Many are likely to fetch over £100 a volume. There are two scarce editions of Jane's All the World's Aircraft, which very rarely appear for sale.

For followers of *The Last Place on Earth*, based on Scott of the Antarctic, which began on television this week, there is a two-volume first edition of Scott's *Last Expedition*, edited by Leonard Huxley.



An Elijah Comfort dish decorated by Michael Cardew in 1930

Modern pots of gold at Christie's

THERE IS one area of contemporary art where the UK is the acknowledged world leader—ceramics. At Christie's on Tuesday dealers and collectors from the U.S., Japan and Europe packed the auction room, for the most successful contemporary ceramics sale ever held.

Christie's had based its upper estimates on the prices realised at its last auction in 1984, but across the board there were substantial increases in price. A few examples will catch the favour of the auction.

A stoneware cup-shaped vase made by Hans Coper around 1968 sold for £4,320, as against a top estimate of £3,200. An early pear shaped vase by Coper went for £3,780 as against an upper estimate of £3,000 and a 1968 dogbone vase made £2,160, as against the most optimistic forecast of £1,200.

Hans Coper's great friend Lucy Rie did even better. A cone shaped bowl, made around 1980, selling for £3,024 (top estimate £1,500), while the Japanese buyers were bidding keenly for the work of Bernard Leach and his pupil Shoji Hamada. A pilgrim dish made by Leach around 1970 was bought for £2,500 (top forecast £1,500), while a stoneware cut sided jar and cover by Hamada, produced in St Ives around 1923, sold for £3,456 (£1,000 higher than the best forecast).

Works by such celebrated potters can be expected to do well. A feature of the auction was the interest shown in less famous artists. A two-handled break crock made by Michael Cardew, a pupil of Leach, around 1935 realised £1,500, over double its top estimate, and an oval slipware dish by the same potter found a buyer at £2,808, against an £800 top estimate. This must be a record price for Cardew.

The story continues among the younger potters, influenced by Coper and Rie. An earthenware slab built vase by Jacqueline Poncet sold for £1,186 (top estimate £500); a cup by Elizabeth Frisch doubled its top estimate at £1,620; an architectural sculpture, with a chip, by Ian Godfrey, went for £129 60p, again over double the top forecast.

The exception was a mural by Hans Coper commissioned by Powell Duffryn and installed in 1961 in their Berkeley Street headquarters. The sculpture was inherited by Intergroup when it took over the building and they were informed of its value. Or rather what Christie's thought it was worth. The mural contains 16 ceramic discs

ART INVESTMENT
ANTHONY THORNCROFT

which individually would probably sell for £3,000. The installation, one of only two completed by Coper, carried an estimate of £30,000-£40,000. The best bid in the room was £23,000.

Cyril Frankel, Christie's contemporary ceramics consultant, is certain that the potential buyers who sat on their hands will be cursing their judgment in a few years time. But both the strength and the weakness of the ceramics market is that it is governed by private collectors who probably paid a few pounds for their first pot, who have profited by the steady appreciation in price in the last 10 years, but who cannot afford, or make the psychological jump, to pay £30,000 for an undoubted masterpiece.

It is perhaps ironic that the artists who founded the UK's domination should have their roots abroad. Bernard Leach, and his pupil Hamada, settled in St Ives in 1920 to pioneer the development of rustic pottery based on his experiences in Japan, while Rie and Coper arrived as refugees in 1938, and struggled for over 25 years before their genius was recognised. Now their work is being compared with such modern masters as Henry Moore, Hepworth and Brancusi. Their international influences are perhaps the root of their international appeal, but there are still many British buyers who paid £10 for a Lucy Rie or Hans Coper pot in 1960 who have watched with appreciation their ascent to artistic canonisation.

It is the fact that pots could be bought at Christie's this week for under £100 which makes this a successful and expanding auction market. All the big auction houses are looking to develop their business by selling more contemporary arts and crafts but it is proving difficult. Sotheby's held a major sale three years ago of furniture, textiles, glass, jewellery, etc by leading artists which was a failure because the asking prices were above the purses of young buyers and collectors. But pots can be cheap as can glass, another area which might become a thriving auction activity. Good furniture will always probably be too expensive, as will jewellery.

Alan Forrest on sporting chances in winter

A look at the Great Indoors

JUST AS trade, they used to say, followed the flag, sport seems to follow the rally. A sport played indoors, according to some pundits, can be more televisual when properly handled than an outdoor event, and involves fewer technical problems.

So we have seen the boom on the box with basketball, squash, indoor tennis and, of course, snooker and darts, followed by another boom at the sports centres. And Torvill and Dean must have been the saviour of a lot of the country's ice rinks.

Another obvious attraction of indoor sport is that it beats our winter climate.

Even this can have its ironies. Not so long ago I sat under cover in Brighton watching Graham Gooch hit a six, John Lever bowl some rather unplayable stuff with a light white plastic ball and Essex win a cricket knock-out against seven other major counties. But outside there was a freak heat wave. The contest indoors could have just as easily been played in the fresh air at the Sussex county ground.

Certainly, a lot of British sportsmen, particularly golfers, seem reactionary about going indoors. They argue, with some justice, that their game is probably one of the hardest to simulate under cover. At present there are under-cover driving ranges, areas for putting practice and now the chance to play in Piccadilly Circus inside Lillywhite's store.

There, with the help of high technology, an enthusiast can play California's Palm Springs course. But taking golf indoors might seem to have the appeal you might expect in an icy winter. "What's the point?" one golfer said to me. "You can never reproduce the atmosphere of this lovely game unless you're out in the open, maybe with a chill wind blowing in your face. And if you want to practise putting you can do that on your bedroom carpet."

This opinion seems to have been shared by some of the members of a club that opened off Fleet Street some years ago

offering electronic golf indoors. The premises survive, but all that remains of the golf course is the 19th hole.

Still, I'm told that for improving one's skills, Leslie King's Driving School in Knightsbridge is a must for golfers with swing crises.

The problem for the fundamentalist in any sport is that playing indoors changes its nature dramatically. Take that Brighton cricket weekend. "Mickey Mouse cricket," a friend of mine not far from the MCC, called it.

In the version I watched, the 100 ft square field—surpeted indoor square and artificial turf outfield—was white-walled and enclosed by a net. The teams were six-a-side. Ten overs were played in the qualifying rounds, 20 in the final. Hit the ball against the side walls and that's a single, with any runs you run added. One hazard is that a batsman can be caught out on the rebound from the wall.

Sixes and fours are also something completely different. A six was a straight drive hitting the back wall, a four a lofted shot against the back wall. John Lever talked about the difficulty of setting any sort of swing from the light plastic ball. But everybody agreed it was good pre-season practice, particularly for fielders.

But more beneficial for cricket has been the gradual growth of indoor nets since the war. For example, at the Ufford Cricket School in East London many of the Essex side learned some of the finer points there. Now the county has its own indoor school.

Tennis is the one outdoor sport that can be played indoors without too much disruption of disciplines. Facilities are good throughout the UK's sports centres—the Sports Council (01-388 1277) or the Lawn Tennis Association (01-305 2386) can point you in the right direction.

The cost of indoor sport depends on whether you play at a local, possibly municipally-owned sports centre, where a few pounds can give you a

tennis or badminton session or a dip in the pool. The private club costs more, possibly up to £300 a year subscriptions plus hourly rates.

Last week a new open-air tennis club opened in Wimbledon, not more than a backhand drive from the holy of holies itself. Andrew Grad and his colleagues Joseph Farachy and Michael East got the idea for it on a rainy day in London when they could not find an indoor court free.

It has cost £500,000 to provide four courts, a clubhouse, changing rooms and car parking. Former Davis Cup player Mark Cox will be tennis director. Membership ranges between £20 and £80 a year and court hire £5 to £9 an hour depending on the time of day. Opening hours: 8.00 am to 11.00 pm.

Another London centre offers tennis seven days a week round the clock. The David Lloyd Slazenger Racket Club at Heston is just off the M4 a couple of miles from Heathrow. It is the brainchild of Lloyd, another former Davis Cup player, and has 15 indoor courts and nine outdoor with facilities for squash, swimming, keep-fit and disco dancing. It already has 4,600 members paying £150 to join and a £150 a year subscription with court fees of £10 peak and £6 off-peak.

The Sports Council offers some nice "jewels in the crown." Bisham Abbey at Marlow in the Thames Valley is the LTA's national tennis training centre with four indoor courts plus facilities for dance, squash and gymnastics. Treatment of sports injuries and residential courses "to cut down your golf handicap with the aid of video" are also available.

A run-through of indoor facilities for outdoor sports provides a fascinating list. Saying where, when and at what price they are available is more difficult. New sports centres grow up all the time, and the best thing to do is to ring the Sports Council or the governing body of the sport you are interested in. Here, however, is a starting point.

Back to Biggles and company

THE HENDON aviators gave a dinner at the Royal Automobile Club in London for B. C. Hicks and Gustav Heston in January 1914, in honour of the latter being the top and flying upside down.

The meal was no ordinary one. It was outside, down, two, with liquors, and coffee, and going on to dessert, the main course, soup and hors d'oeuvre. The guests, who included the pioneer pilot Marcel Desoutter and Frederick Handley Page (later Sir, who started his aviation company in 1909) building a series of monoplane with crescent-shaped wings, sat at a table arranged in the form of a loop.

The toasts were responded to in reverse order, beginning with "lastly" and ending with "firstly." At the end of the meal nearly all confessed that they still felt hungry. As one guest observed, it required the practice to enjoy than

A photograph taken at the memorable dinner by Fradelle and Young is expected to make between £150 and £180 at today's sale at noon of naval, maritime and aeronautical collectors' items at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. The auctioneers are Onslow's of Winchester. Hampshire, a firm started at the end of last year by Patrick Bogue and John Jenkins, both aged 25, formerly with Christie's in South Kensington. All the Hendon ephemera (and there are many photographs, paintings, posters and programmes all in mint condition), are expected to attract considerable interest from dealers and private collectors, particularly from France, Switzerland and Germany.

Hendon aerodrome was established in 1910, and soon became the centre of flying training and air racing, as well as the terminus of the first official air mail service in the United Kingdom in 1911. Hendon-Windsor, to mark the coronation of George V. Also in the sale is a photograph of Claude Grahame-White, who started his aviation company in Pau, near the Pyrenees in France in 1909, coming to England and acquiring Hendon aerodrome two years later, and building a factory. He built his own design biplane in 1914, which was adopted by the Admiralty as a standard school machine.

There is an evocative poster, too, of Hendon's Aerial Derby of Saturday May 23 1914 for a 95-mile circuit of London. Cyrus "Ciro" Cuneo, the war artist who died of blood poisoning at the age of 37 in 1916, produced a delightful vignette of the race for the occasion.

Another poster features Louis Bleriot, showing the intrepid French pioneer crossed to six spades, which became the final contract.

Winning West's spade King with dummy's Ace, the declarer at once returned a spade, and ruffed in hand with his Knave of hearts. He crossed to the eight of hearts, ruffed dummy's last spade, drew East's trump, led a club to the King, and returned the five.

When East followed with the seven, South crossed with his nine, and the Knave won. West was snafelled. A spade return would concede a ruff discard, and a club or a diamond would give declarer his extra trick.

If East covers the club five with Knave or Queen, South wins and returns the 10, discarding a diamond from the table, and can throw another diamond on the nine.

The dummy reversal combined with the endplay is the expert's way: to ruff two clubs and rely on the diamond finesse as an inferior method.

The second hand occurred in a teams-of-four match:

COLLECTING
JUNE FIELD

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BRIDGE
E. P. C. COTTER

MY TWO example hands today were excellently played by the declarers, and are well worth studying. The first, which comes from rubber bridge, is not really difficult, but South's quick appraisal of the position and his faultless technique impressed me. Here it is:

N
♠ A 7 5
♥ 10 9 8 4 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ K 5

W
♠ K Q 10 9 3
♥ 5
♦ K 9 8
♣ J 6 2

S
♠ 8 3
♥ A K Q J 6
♦ A Q 4
♣ A 10 9 3

At game all, South dealt and opened the bidding with two aces, a one-round force, for high, though it may seem unorthodox to say so, he is a little bit North replied with three aces, guaranteeing an ace in each suit. South said four clubs. North in turn showed his ace in four suits, the opener

showed his ace in four suits, the opener

showed his ace in four suits, the opener

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CHESS
LEONARD BARDEN

THE CONTROVERSIAL abandonment of the world title match with Karpov today 5-5 but gaining fast on the sick Karpov is sure to provoke argument among chessplayers for months and years to come. On strictly legal grounds, the issue is obscure: the rules gave the FIDE President, Florencio Campomanes, a virtually carte blanche in unexpected situations, but it was never foreseen that this might extend to stopping the contest when one player tired badly.

Viktor Korchnoi has already gone on record as saying that he now regards Karpov as world champion, while Icelandic grandmaster Fridrik Olafsson, a lawyer and FIDE president until ousted by Campomanes, has publicly criticised the decision. But officials on the spot in Moscow, the Yugoslav referee and the West German senior FIDE delegate, supported their colleague.

Karpov is under fire for the phone call to Campomanes which asked for him to be declared winner, as well as for his attempt to secure a rematch in September and another return if Karpov beats him then. There will be some sympathy that what looked a successful series for Karpov was marred by illness, but against that it can be said that the champion's psychological collapse vindicated Kasparov's attrition strategy which began as far back as late October. When 0-4 behind, the young challenger decided to slowball, spin out the

match, and wait for Karpov's stars to blink. Karpov, with a decisive advantage in the first-to-six-wins series, was apparently going for a 6-0 shutout so as to demolish his rival for future matches in 1988 or later. This meant a minimum risk strategy, trying for small endgame advantages while denying Karpov tactical opportunities and Karpov was encouraged to maintain this stance when he went 5-0 up in game 27.

If Karpov had instead used his big lead as a cushion and gone for a more tactical game so as to secure the final point, he would probably have clinched the match against a rival whose confidence was then still brittle. Karpov knew of his own tendency to weight loss and poor sleep after his previous marathon with Korchnoi, but apparently wasn't flexible enough to alter his predetermined match plan. In that context, Kasparov is entitled to feel cheated of the fruits of his own attrition campaign.

One factor in the strange decision to abort the match may have been the budgetary position of the USSR Chess Federation. They had to make heavy payments in 1983 to reschedule the Kasparov-Korchnoi series from Pasadena to London after the Soviet sports authorities used the occasion for a dry run of their Olympics boycott. Then the escalating costs of the 1984 title match at the Hall of Columns, coupled with poor ticket sales and increasing friction with Columns officials, forced a switch to the downtown Hotel Sport despite Karpov's protests. When Kasparov began to win games at the new site (which was incidentally the venue for his victories in the 1982 interzonal and his 1983

match against Belyavsky), the prospect loomed of the challenger expensively inching his way to success against the officially favoured candidate, with frequent halts for timeouts and draws. The grim-faced Federation chief Nikolai Krogius, who sat on the platform with Campomanes and Karpov at the final FIDE conference, may have decided to cut his losses.

Latest developments are that Kasparov has appeared on Moscow television claiming that the call to Dubai was not instigated by him, and that he knew of the match abandonment only a few minutes before it was announced. He asked for an immediate resumption of play, but Kasparov said "no chance." The harassed President Campomanes is now urged to return yet again to Moscow.

The next interesting points to watch for in the saga are: whether Karpov recovers in time to confirm his acceptance for next month's highly rated, hard-currency international at Linares, Spain; and what, if any, action Moscow officials take against Kasparov following his outburst at the conference.

By normal Soviet criteria the young challenger broke protocol in several directions: he implied that proceedings were fixed by FIDE, the USSR Federation and his opponent, and he complained in English to Western correspondents. Many organisers will be keen to include the high profile Kasparov in their tournaments this spring or summer, and the question is whether officials will put a block on his overseas travel.



Indoor cricket at Lords

minutes seems a better deal. But for somebody playing through the year, and wanting the "socialities" of a club, what is the better bargain?

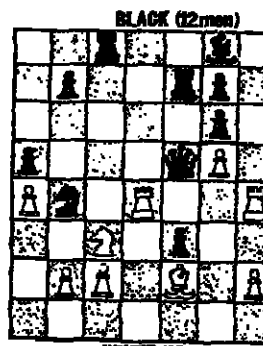
For further information, contact the Squash Rackets Association, Francis House, Francis Street, London SW1 (01-825 3064).

BOWLS: The reason for the indoor boom in this game, it was once claimed that better heating arrangements had made it more attractive for the old people who played it. But Bernard Telfer of the Indoor Bowls Association points out

that the present average age of the England indoor team is 31. Bowls is good value—there are clubs of prestige with a £15 a year subscription and charging no more than £1 for a two-hour session. For further information contact the Indoor Bowls Association (01-470 1237) or sports councils.

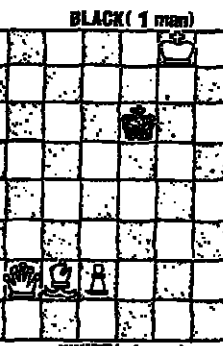
MOUNTAINEERING—Yes, you can practise that indoors at the YMCA in London's Tottenham Court Road on a brick wall that offers all the classic climbing hazards—chimneys, overhangs, ankle holds, etc.

POSITION No. 556



WHITE (22mm)

PROBLEM No. 556



WHITE (4mm)

A Belyavsky v L Psakhis, European club final 1984. White (to move) is attacking hard with queen and both rooks, but Black seems adequately defended and threatens QxP or NxP. How should White continue?

White mates in three moves at latest, against any defence (by M. Havel, 1911). Black is short of escape squares, but White has to be careful since 1 Q-Q4? is stalemate.

Solution Page 16

RESIDENT ABROAD

Resident Abroad, published by Financial Times Business Information, is Britain's monthly magazine for people living or working overseas.

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Saturday February 23 1985

Mr Reagan's greatest fan

A FEW months ago Mrs Thatcher, under pressure at Prime Minister's question time, mounted an acid attack on President Reagan's deficit policies and rashly concluded that she would rather face her own problems than those of the President. Last week, despite a Hollywood-style show of mutual admiration, the President in effect told her she could have her wish: he would concentrate on his own problems, but he would not help her with hers. His words, as much as the more cautious ones of Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve, carried the same basic message: America is perfectly happy with her problems, and no policy change is intended. The currency markets then gave the President a hearty vote of confidence.

The vote is in some ways deserved, because the recent U.S. performance can be called miraculous. One of his problems, after all, is the same one which Mrs Thatcher faced in 1980—a grossly overvalued currency undermining competitiveness, together with high real interest rates. Mrs Thatcher (or rather Mr Geoffrey Howe) acted to relieve this pressure, though it did mean tightening the budget. Sterling fell (and we now have something of an export-led recovery) and interest rates fell too, until they had to be jacked up again to prevent sterling going into a terminal nosedive. This policy, as described on the playbills, but there was little alternative: British industry simply could not cope.

President Reagan has felt able to take a radically different attitude. Everyone is out of step except our dollar; and if that hurts anyone at home, bad luck.

Adaptability

The miracle is, though, that so much of American industry has been able to adapt. The high-technology end is not really subject to price competition, but in many established industries a mixture of pragmatism, rapid modernisation and buoyant demand has generated prosperity rather than pain. The real clue is in the aggregate figures: the American current account deficit is large, but it seems to have stabilised, so that output can continue to grow at something approaching the growth rate of demand. There has been some luck in the mixture—for example, the fall in the dollar price of oil has revived demand for the bigger cars that only Detroit mass-produces; but mainly it is a triumph of self-reliance and adaptability. No wonder Mrs Thatcher, even after a frustrating visit, remains a fan.

PAUL VOLCKER packs an iron punch in a velvet glove. When the U.S. Federal Reserve Board chairman sat down after his bi-annual bout with the Senate Banking Committee earlier this week, he had boxed with his habitual courtesy style. But the message hit home with a crunch.

In the wake of his low key but unmistakably blunt warnings to the nation's politicians and financiers, short-term U.S. interest rates surged: the dollar shot through the roof and the recent rally in the equity markets came to a shuddering halt.

The burden of Mr Volcker's homily was simple. The Fed, he said, has stopped pumping money into the system. It will not finance the building Federal deficit by "printing the money" either will it use monetary policy to engineer a decline in the dollar.

But most crucially, he warned of the dire consequences should foreign investors lose their appetite for U.S. government securities—something, he said, could happen "overnight".

In making these points, he reminded the U.S. financial markets of things they would rather forget—that if foreign investors stop supporting the U.S. economy the dollar could collapse, interest rates and inflation could soar and the current expansion could be brought to a grinding halt.

"The stability of our capital and money markets is now dependent as never before on the willingness of foreigners to continue to place growing amounts of money in our markets," Mr Volcker said.

Last year alone, he noted, almost a quarter of America's capital needs came from abroad, and he hinted darkly at the consequences of an abrupt reappraisal of the attractiveness of U.S. markets by overseas investors.

The Fed chairman's comments thus forced the U.S. capital markets to take stock after a heady start to the new year which saw burst of optimistic predictions that the U.S. was on the verge of a new "golden age" of inflation-free economic growth.

This marked a change in sentiment was most apparent on

Equities once again attract the small investor

Wall Street. In early January, as U.S. interest rates hit 12-month lows, the equity markets took off. The daily volume figures on the New York Stock Exchange began to signal an intriguing story. After hovering around 80m throughout the previous three months, the number of shares traded on January 10 suddenly shot up to 125m.

On all but one of the following 29 business days, volume on the NYSE topped the 100m mark, adding an apparent depth to the recent equity rally which was noticeably lacking throughout 1984.

Virtually all the numbers coming out of the markets suggested that the small private investor, who still accounts for around 60 per cent of share ownership in the U.S., had returned to equities in force. "This is the most retail activity we have seen in two years," says Mr Jerry Markowitz, head of equity trading at Prudential-Bache securities.

U.S. financial markets

Mr Volcker sends a chill down Wall Street

Our U.S. staff reports on the present mood of American investors

Last year, the small man stood on the sidelines, even the August explosion, when dealing volume set a still unbroken record of 240m shares, mostly reflected buying by the institutions. But this time round, the groundswell of investor activity carried virtually all the leading indices, from the blue-chip Dow-Jones Industrial Average to the all-embracing NYSE composite to record highs.

The enthusiasm for equities has been most striking in the Nasdaq over-the-counter market, home of the smaller capitalised stocks which are great favourites of the private investor. After a year of marking time, the Nasdaq index rose by 16 per cent in the first seven weeks of the year.

The surge in equity prices, which saw the Dow Jones Industrial hit a record of 1297.92 ten days ago, has been underpinned by a bold revival of investor confidence in the U.S. economy coupled with sharply lower inflation expectations. Inflation expectations are probably the key," says Mr Robert Salomon, director of stock research at Salomon Brothers.

This view is confirmed by surveys of the outlook for inflation conducted by Wall Street firms. Mr Richard Hoey of investment bankers Drexel Burnham Lambert, in his latest December decision makers' poll, concluded that 10 years inflation expectations have now dropped to 5.5 per cent compared with a peak of 9 per cent in late 1980.

Even Mr Volcker is willing to accept that "chronic expectations of future inflation have been damped," and that "the public at large now seems to sense a greater degree of control over inflation than for many a year."

But he differs from the optimists in emphasising that some of the anti-inflationary pressures in the economy—particularly the strong dollar—could easily evaporate.

The dollar—which has moved from DM 3.1540 at the

start of the year to flirt with the DM 3.40 level yesterday—has brought fierce competitive pressures to bear on the inflationary dynamics of the U.S. economy.

Its strength has also increased the flexibility of the Federal Reserve Board to take more risks on the side of encouraging economic growth and resisting recessionary pressures than would otherwise have been the case.

It was the Fed's surprisingly prompt and vigorous reaction to the slowdown in economic growth in the second half of last year which helped set the U.S. economy back on an expansionary track. Beginning in September, the Fed cut the discount rate in two steps to 8

After a heady start to the New Year, the Fed chairman's comments have forced the markets to take stock

per cent, the lowest level since 1978. Those moves helped send short-term money-market rates spiralling down by up to 200 basis points and prompted the banks to lower the prime rate from 13 per cent in August to 10.5 per cent today.

This in turn set the stage for a blistering bond market rally which only ran out of steam earlier this month when it became clear that the Fed's easing move was over. By the end of 1984, the 30-year long bond was yielding less than 11.5 per cent compared to a peak of almost 14 per cent at the end of May.

Outside the credit markets, the repercussions of the Fed's actions were felt in the U.S. economy as it began to rebound from a sluggish 1.6 per cent real annual growth rate of expansion in the 1984 third quarter.

After a series of upward revisions, what looked initially like a fairly anemic fourth quarter now turns out to have been bowling along at a rate of 4.9 per cent.

At the corporate level, despite the very strong surge in earnings over the past 24 months, profits are expected to continue to expand if forecasts of continued real growth for the U.S. economy prove accurate. Some Wall Street economists are projecting over 10 per cent earnings growth this year. Salomon Brothers, for example, believes that earnings per share for companies in the Standard and Poors 500 share index could reach \$19 in 1985 against \$17 in 1984.

But it is not just the growth

boost. While the sharp decline in interest rates since last summer lifted for the economy, it has also made fixed-interest securities and savings instruments such as bank certificates of deposit, less attractive in comparison to ordinary shares.

In June last summer, investors in fixed income securities could expect to command returns of up to 13.5 per cent when dividend yields on the S and P 500 were around 4.92 per cent. By mid-December, before the equity rally began, bond yields had sunk to close to 11.5 per cent while the dividend yield on shares was 4.85 per cent.

Given that dividends are expected to rise quite strongly in 1985, the attractiveness of equity prices, has been the shrinking supply of shares. New issue volume last year was sluggish and companies were "retiring" existing equity at an unprecedented rate.

In 1984 alone, some \$70bn or almost 5 per cent of the equity base was eliminated through aggressive company stock repurchase schemes, leveraged buy-outs and booming takeover activity.

What is more, while the recent improvement in share prices has made some corporations more receptive to the idea of issuing new equity, First Boston figures show new equity issuance in the first seven weeks this year—level-pegging that in the same period in 1984 at around \$2bn—most Wall Street firms expect equity retirement to continue to outpace new issues leading to a further modest shrinkage in the equity base this year.

According to Steve Einhorn, vice-chairman for investment policy at Goldman Sachs, all

these factors combine in the eyes of equity investors to place a safety net under the value of their shareholdings, provided there are no dramatic changes in the business environment.

Like many others, he sees the dollar as central to the argument. "The dollar is the glue that has held the economy together. The market is responding to the notion that so long as the dollar is strong, interest rates will not rise. But there is some inevitability to a dollar decline, investors have simply repressed these international concerns," says Mr Einhorn.

These years, punched home by Mr Volcker this week, lead some Wall Street analysts to argue that investors' enthusiasm for ordinary shares will wane, putting a cap on the level to which the stock indices will rise.

Dollar the glue that has held economy together

Mr Einhorn, for example, doubts that we are about to witness the assault on the 1400-1500 level of the DJIA which proponents of the golden era of inflation-free growth thesis have been so confidently predicting.

The behaviour of the long-term bond market certainly supports such caution. Although long term yields have dropped dramatically in the last nine months, real long term interest rates remain at remarkably high levels by any historical yardstick. This scarcely applies much confidence in the view that inflation has been "whipped."

The bond market is the most sensitive indicator of inflationary expectations in the financial system—and bond yields have been edging higher for the past three weeks. It is difficult to imagine share prices making new major gains unless the movement is underpinned by another convincing rally in the bond market.

Raise the VAT limit

From Mr F. Tuckman MEP

Sir—The case for raising the turnover exemption limit for VAT to £50,000 or even £100,000 is strong and now well established. In the cross-party and multi-country small business working party of the European Parliament, my colleagues and I are pushing strongly to obtain EEC agreement to such change.

The nature of Continental opposition is not well understood. Equity between firms is paramount, and any exemption which permits one trader to operate without paying VAT, in competition with one who has to charge that levy, is felt to be unfair and a distortion of trade.

Our view is that the costs of collection are so high for every pound flowing to the Treasury that it represents a waste of resources, and an unnecessary administrative burden. We are here at the heart of a typical cultural conflict, which makes it so hard to operate a truly European Community.

A mere recital of the case is quite inadequate; we have to approach enough opinion formers to get the case accepted. It has been a major step to get Lord Friedrich, our German chairman, in have this matter on the agenda. So far most people are not even aware that a real issue exists. Ultimately this must be seen as a Community issue, not just one for Britain.

Fred Tuckman, (Spokesman on small business matters for the Conservatives in the European Parliament) 6, Cumberland Road, SW13.

BAA poll at Stansted

From the Public Affairs Director, British Airports Authority

Sir—Mr Wagener (February 13) questions the recent MORI poll concerning Stansted airport. What he will not know is that the Press release was reissued nearly three weeks later with a corrected headline as follows: "Most Stansted

area residents support airport expansion."

He has not fully appreciated that two polls were involved. He has quoted the wide area of approximately 30-mile radius, but does not mention the sub-sample of nearly 200 people in the districts adjacent to Stansted airport. These showed a similar majority for expansion limited to the existing runway with 63 per cent in favour (35 per cent actually in favour of developing a second runway), 18 per cent against, and 18 per cent with no opinion.

This means three to one in favour of airport expansion and nearly two to one in favour of a second runway—a dramatic endorsement by any standards. Peter Sanguinetti, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex.

Making the rich richer

From Mr S. Stewart

Sir—It seems that I did Michael Prowse an injustice when I pointed out (February 16) that 9.8m persons paid income tax in 1983-84. I relied for this on Table 269 of Annual Abstract 1983-84, but this must refer to the number of returns to tax and not the number who paid tax, although there is nothing to indicate this. The number paying tax was apparently less than half the figure I gave. Shaun Stewart.

The Old House, Willards Hill, Etchingham, East Sussex.

Accounting for software

From Mr E. Pantou

Sir—The points Lex raised in relation to software accounting (February 7) were rather timely for my purpose. The following day we were to have the first AGM since our company's shares began to trade on the USM.

The first point I had to make was that this company would not favour the capitalisation of our research and development spend for the simple reason that if we did so the Inland Revenue would want to extract corporation tax on the con-

Letters to the Editor

sequential rise in profits. The second point that I was able to make was that the Stock Exchange insisted (at the time we were going on the USM) that we made public the extent of our research and development spend over the last five years.

It may not be the most elegant of solutions, but having regard to the activities of the Inland Revenue and wishing to continue to make public what the Stock Exchange obviously regards as material fact, we shall continue to report our R & D spend in the announcement of our results.

Bernard Pantou, Telecommunications, 244 Barn Road, Orford.

A case for state pensions

From Mr M. Belliss

Sir—I refer to your article "The case for state pensions" (February 13). The case for maintaining the state earnings related pension is long overdue. Rather than consider extending the increasingly complicated mechanism for contracting-out of the State scheme, attention should be paid to the alternative of having all employed persons in the earnings related scheme.

This would: (a) ensure that employed persons would build up a level of retirement income that would remove the risk of the State having to provide supplementary benefits except in relatively few cases; (b) remove all the restrictions on transferability and revaluation in respect of the State earnings related scheme. This change alone would reduce the legislative and administrative burden imposed by

current legislation. It would also result in a saving in DHSS and OFB staff costs.

In order to meet aims of the Secretary of State, ie to simplify the system and in offer individuals an increase in the choice of providing for additional retirement income, the existing provisions with regard to retirement annuity policies can be used on a wider basis. It would require the compulsory membership of occupational schemes to be outlawed and the tax relief procedures changed to allow tax relief on retirement annuity premiums under the PAYE system (or a net payment system introduced).

This relatively straightforward change would result in everyone having the benefits earned in the state scheme; the freedom to choose between an occupational scheme and an individual arrangement; and a choice of investments if an individual arrangement is chosen.

If the nation cannot afford the existing level of state benefits, it seems unlikely that employees can isolate themselves from the financial health of the nation and do better than the general economic experience.

M. T. Rallist, 23, Hilgate Street, W5.

Diesel engine economy

From Mr S. Hoare

Sir—In spite of the gloomy future for diesel-engined cars forecast by Mr Pierre H. Jungels (February 9), I shall be staying with mine after four years of extremely economical running. I am retired and long-distance travel is not a main feature of my journeys. I am more concerned to take my wife to her local meetings and to the shopping areas,

which entails a round trip of no more than four to five miles. Careful monitoring of fuel consumption has shown my VW Golf Diesel to give a remarkable average of 48 mpg. Having regard to the stopping and starting, backing and parking, searching etc. over Ryde's tortuous and hilly roads, I am sure this can only be regarded as amazing. A petrol engine of similar capacity would return no more than 28 mpg. My engine is of 1600 cc.

I calculate my diesel car shows a saving of 44 per cent on cost of fuel per mile and 41 per cent in use of fuel. If there were a major shift over to diesel engines in general, imagine the colossal saving in world oil consumption, thereby conserving and spreading our precious limited resources over many more years of use, to the benefit of future generations. Even taking into account the measures outlined by Mr Jungels to limit pollution, with the attendant increase in fuel consumption of 20 per cent, the diesel engine is still more economical.

S. Hoare, 197 Great Preston Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Engineering design

From Professor M. French

Sir—The article by Christopher Lorenz on Design Engineers ("Coming in from the cold," February 13) contains some excellent and timely stuff, particularly the reported remarks of John Coplin on the need for "intellectual elitism" in design.

I must protest about the impression given of the impracticality of engineering professors. The Conference of Engineering Professors has been passing resolutions and adopting policies about more synthesis and design since 1978, but always recognising what your article does not, that design must be built on a sound knowledge of the underlying physical science, and the standard three year course does not allow sufficient time.

A survey in 1983 indicated that most courses included 10-15 per cent of design, which is reasonable when our courses are so much shorter than those of our successful economic competitors.

I believe the analytical subjects are not usually sufficiently related to design, which, as the Boulton Report recommended, should form a thread running through the undergraduate course. Above all, we need longer courses. In a race, when you are already behind, it is no use running more slowly than the others: you will not catch up.

(Professor) Michael J. French, 4, Haverbreaks Place, Lancaster.

Compare and contrast

From the Director-General, Electronic Components Industry Federation.

Sir—Lex wrote (February 18) that electronic companies have always complained about the City's obsession with short term performance. One reason why they do so is the contrast with attitudes in Japan. Mr Kaichiro Odagawa of Toshiba was recently reported as saying that the Japanese have taken a philosophical view of the chip business that "not only do you not pull out in the bad times, you carry on investing: the stop and go policy is wrong, the investment should be continuous. If recession comes, it does not matter. We invest for the future." And Mr Hisao Kanamura of Hitachi said "The semiconductor business is a money-eater; you need new plants for new products every three or four years."

The Japanese financial community accepts these facts of life in the world of micro-electronics, and there seems to be no shortage of capital to keep up this continuous flow of investment. It is surprising that the UK industry finds it difficult to compete without comparable backing from the City, and needs Government support to redress the balance.

Richard H. W. Bullock, 7-8 Savile Row, W.1.

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	14%	C. Hoare & Co.	14%
Allied Irish Bank	14%	Hong Kong & Shanghai	14%
Henry Ansbacher	14%	Johnson Matthey Bkrs	14%
Amro Bank	14%	Kowloon & Co. Ltd.	14%
Arco Bank Ltd.	14%	Lloyds Bank	14%
Associates Cap. Corp.	14%	Edward Manson & Co.	15%
Banco de Bilbao	14%	Meghraj & Sons Ltd.	14%
Bank Hapoalim	14%	Midland Bank	14%
BOCI	14%	Morgan Grenfell	14%
Bank of Ireland	14%	Mount Credit Corp. Ltd.	14%
Bank of Cyprus	14%	National Bk. of Kuwait	14%
Bank of India	14%	National Girobank	14%
Bank of Scotland	14%	National Westminster	14%
Banque Belge Ltd.	14%	Northern Bank Ltd.	14%
Barclays Bank	14%	Norwich Gen. Trust	14%
Benedict Trust Ltd.	15%	People's Tst. & Sv. Ltd.	15%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	14%	Provincial Trust Ltd.	15%
Brown Shipley	14%	R. Raphael & Sons	14%
CL Bank Nederland	14%	F. S. Retson	14%
Canada Perm't Trust	14%	Roxburgh Guarantees	14%
Cayzer Ltd.	14%	Royal Bank of Scotland	14%
Cedar Holdings	14%	Royal Trust Co. Canada	14%
Charterhouse Japhet	14%	J. Royal Schroder Wagg	14%
Choulatons	14%	Standard Chartered	14%
Citibank NA	14%	Trade Dev. Bank	14%
Citibank Savings	12%	TCB	14%
Clydesdale Bank	14%	Trustee Savings Bank	14%
C. E. Coates & Co. Ltd.	14%	United Bank of Kuwait	14%
Comm. Bk. N. East	14%	United Mizrahi Bank	14%
Consolidated Credits	14%	Westpac Banking Corp.	14%
Co-operative Bank	14%	Whiteaway Ltd.	14%
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	14%	Williams & Glyn's	14%
Dunbar & Co. Ltd.	14%	Wintour Sec. Ltd.	14%
Duncan Lewis	14%	Yorkshire Bank	14%
E. T. Trust	14%		
Exeter Trust Ltd.	14%		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	15%		
First Nat. Sec. Ltd.	14%		
Robert Fleming & Co.	14%		
Robert Fraser & Pils.	14%		
Grindlays Bank	14%		
Guinness Mahon	14%		
Hambros Bank	14%		
Heritable & Gen. Trust	14%		
Hill Samuel	14%		

IT IS worth, now, making a small effort of imagination. It is worth thinking yourself into the state of a mind which holds Mr Arthur Scargill in high esteem.

This is more than simply mental aerobics. Conventional wisdom has it that Mr Scargill has committed yet another act of terminal stupidity in isolating the miners from their allies, committing them, a depleted band of 19th century cavalry, to charge against the tanks of the National Coal Board and the Government like the antiquated divisions of the Polish army smashing themselves against the Panzers in the summer of 1939.

To the question — why does the rest of the 26-man executive, and the coalfield delegates, follow his lead — conventional wisdom replies that they are stupid, or too cowardly to face the charge of betrayal from the activists, or cynically calculating that Scargill will get it in the neck for the ultimate disaster, not them.

Conventional wisdom may have a point on all these matters. But to stop there leaves out of account perhaps the most important consideration. They admire and respect him; and by their lights there are good reasons why they should do so.

From the outside — and the "outside" contains such figures as most union general secretaries, Nottinghamshire miners and Labour MPs — the NUM President appears a man willing to resort to any ruse, manipulate any fact, use any person, in support of his ultimate purpose of maintaining the strike. So he is. But he has also been unwaveringly faithful and honest in one crucial respect: in pursuing the policies laid down by the NUM's national conference, constitutionally the union's highest body. It prescribed complete opposition, through industrial action if necessary, to pit closures — unequivocally, no ifs and buts.

Now everyone knows that conference decisions are — how shall we say — a little over-enthusiastic, and that the "art of leadership" in representative institutions consists very largely (in the Labour Party, almost wholly) of making creative compromises between them and reality. But the "everyone" who knows this does not include the activists and radicals who work for such decisions and who genuinely want them adhered to: Mr Scargill was the country's ace activist and remains one still. He has the activists' absolute fidelity to the outcome of the internal process, very little, almost none perceived, of the presidential need to balance militancy with caution, rhetoric with reality. It is, of course, not the case that Mr Scargill is simply a

more than usually efficient vehicle for processing conference resolutions. He has for more than a decade put himself at the head of the NUM's radical wing, and has had at least a hand in most of the successes enjoyed by left-wing policies. His ideology, which is a revolutionary one, is in accord with the militant syndicalism of liberal union policy which would end the creation of a socialist society by industrial means. Because this is so, and because Mr Scargill has no notion of gradualism of any kind, he is the activist's dream.

Thus Mr Scargill has wholly avoided the "disillusionment factor" which nearly all left wingers suffer from sooner or later: once they achieve high office, his most ardent supporters remain his most ardent supporters (though he has lost quite a few of the less ardent, come of whom have become bitter foes). Further, even where his area officials, many of them longer in the tooth, thinner on the top and shorter in the wind than he, believe he is behaving more like the lead lemming than a president, they are silenced by the reflection that their hands went up to support the policies on which they are hoist.

It cannot be too often said that the miners regard themselves as men separate from other men, and thus as trade unionists separate from other unionists. No other group of workers would have produced a leader like Mr Scargill, and no other could sustain him: he derives his uniqueness only in part from his personality, politics and experience, much more from the culture of British miners and their union.

They expect from their leaders a degree of toughness of mind which would strain the leaders of most other unions: in this hard school, Mr Scargill

has distinguished himself. The other side of that, however, is that this exclusivism amounts to snobbery can all but screen out influences other than those within the union, thus handing to its top leaders an awesome power.

A concrete example: on Wednesday, the NUM executive gathered in London, having seen on their televisions, heard on their radios and read in their newspapers little else over the previous days than accounts of the seven TUC leaders popping in and out of the highest places in an effort to reach an acceptable basis for a settlement. When the executive got to Congress House at 2.30 in the afternoon, their president told them he knew nothing, had been told nothing and all he could suggest was that they went away and reconvened next morning. Later that afternoon, they were summoned back for a meeting at which Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, told them of the improvements he had got: he did not, in the eyes of most of them, make a very impressive presentation and some of them could not understand him: he has an elliptical style of speaking at times.

Mr Scargill probably knew more than he let on: at the very least, he knew at 2.30 that Mr Willis was on his way back and expected him to hold his executive for his late arrival. In professing himself as ignorant as they, and in sending them off to wander around town he had created, by 3 pm when they reassembled, a body of men resentful and bewildered, disinclined to look benignly on Mr Willis's offerings. But they were already half way there: they do not like the TUC, do not like London, do not like coming and going amid squads of gabbling reporters and con- torting cameramen. Terribly

conscious of their status as a praetorian guard, they do not mix easily with the divisional staff.

Mr Scargill had put himself on his executive's "side" once more: he had closed his own ranks (which last weekend looked a little assured) by lowering the gate on the TUC. He probably prefers it that way, and so do many of his colleagues: they see the TUC officials as civil servants, and they do not think highly of civil servants.

His own sense of personal uniqueness has once again fused with that of his officials and activists: his leadership is a personally charismatic one, of course, but for him the NUM is equally charismatic. Mr Scargill is the only trade union leader who adopts the Russian custom of clapping his audience.

This two-way sense of being marked out for great deeds is the "secret" (a very public secret) of his continuing success inside his union: that is coupled with more mundane considerations, felt by all, of the need to rally round the leader in a crisis, the need to keep up one's guard in the face of the enemy. Mr Scargill's extraordinary leadership of extraordinary men has been a cruel one for his members — but they can be cruelly hard on themselves, and they measure him by their standards, not by those of the London media.

It is worthwhile looking at Mr Scargill in this light, because that is how he is seen from inside that large part of his union which wants to carry on the fight. He can, of course, be stopped in his tracks by a Government willing to spare no expense of any kind: but he cannot, for the duration of this strike, be stopped by the union apparatus.

The miners' strike

The secret of Arthur Scargill's spell

By John Lloyd, Industrial Editor



IF THE special relationship between Britain and the U.S. no longer appears as special as it once was, don't tell Mrs Margaret Thatcher or President Ronald Reagan.

The Prime Minister's two-day visit to Washington this week was a celebration of mutual admiration which went beyond just the common interest of allies but also raised questions about whether anything of substance was achieved beneath the high-flown rhetoric.

Standing in the glorious spring sun outside the south portico of the White House, Mrs Thatcher said: "We see so many things in the same way and you can speak of a real meeting of minds. I feel no inhibitions about describing the relationship as very, very special."

Later at a banquet at the British Embassy — at which the main course was a slender but appetising fillet of veal — "the Special Relationship" followed by Raspberry Mouse "Margaret" — the compliments overflowed. This prompted the ever-glib Mr Reagan to remark: "Based on the career that I once had before this one, you are a very tough act to follow." He was no slouch with the praise, though, watched as ever by numerous secret service men posing somewhat unconvincedly as waiters dressed in dinner jackets but standing motionless for three hours.

On a less high-flown level, administration officials and congressional leaders were naturally pleased with Mrs Thatcher's strong support for the President's stand in the arms control talks and for her sympathetic public view of the budget deficit and the problems caused by the strong dollar — about which both sides are almost fatalistic.

In the conventional sense, however, the visit did not produce much. For the British there was, the promise that foreign companies could have a chance to bid for some of the contracts in the research phase of the Star Wars programme — which is still at a very early stage.

Otherwise, there was mainly an exchange of views, an updating for the British of the U.S. view of the Geneva talks next month, support for the Anglo-Irish dialogue on Northern Ireland with a condemnation of terrorism, and an agreement on the need for a new Middle East initiative.

Much more than any points of substance it was Mrs Thatcher's performance that made the visit such a tour de force. As an senior congressman remarked after an exhausting meeting: "Is she always like this?" The answer is Yes. Her energy, stamina and range are remarkable.

In short, U.S. politicians were awed by a leader at the height of her powers. Even for someone who has seen her triumph

Mrs Thatcher in Washington

Filet of veal special relationship

By Peter Riddell, Political Editor, in Washington



President Reagan, welcoming Mrs Thatcher at the White House on Wednesday.

at the Conservative Party Conference, or brush off attacks from Mr Neil Kinnock at Westminster, the high point was her address to Congress.

The chamber of the House of Representatives was packed. The British group, including Lord King, the chairman of British Airways, who happened to be in Washington, sat to one side of the rostrum behind the joint chiefs of staff who were weighed down by their medals. The British watched fascinated as members of the Senate arrived, slapping the backs of friends (and enemies) from the House and gripping them by the elbow.

Mrs Thatcher's approach was wholly different from that she adopts in the Commons. As at party conferences, she used a teleprompter, a device whereby the text is projected up on to two glass screens on either side of the speaker, but invisible to the audience. Mr Harvey Thomas, the Conservative Central Office expert on what is often dubbed the "sincerity machine," was specially flown

over to supervise arrangements. The device enabled Mrs Thatcher to do without the spectacles she often wears in the Commons.

And without the rumpus-tum-tum of Westminster she spoke more softly, even flatter at first, before being warmed up by the applause. Mr Gordon Reece, her media adviser, who had flown down from Florida, seemed to approve.

Some Republican senators appeared enraptured by her address and later eagerly competed to be photographed shaking hands with her, no doubt with an eye on campaign leaflets in 1986 and beyond.

Downing Street. Her packed timetable — starting each day with television interviews at 7 am — is presented like a U.S. President's schedule with several photo opportunities and pool facilities for the media.

All this has meant that the British Press has taken a more obsessive interest in the Prime Minister's every action. So when it was announced on Thursday that her departure would be delayed for 10 hours because of possible fog in London, suspicions were aroused. One reporter, cross-checking with London, claimed there was no fog, another questioned the Prime Minister's health and there was even talk of a sudden trip to Dublin or, more fancifully, Bermuda. Alas, the truth was more boring, and everyone would have to be patient, though one of the Prime Minister's aides did admit that she would be chafing at the bit before the day was over.

Judging by the extent of television and Press coverage in Britain, the visit has helped to reinforce Mrs Thatcher's image at home as a strong and influential leader. In Washington her high reputation and rating in the U.S. enabled her to talk to everyone who matters. This was reflected not only in her warm reception by Congress but also by the extensive coverage given to her speech, at the top of the nightly news bulletins and on the front pages.

The danger is that what was undoubtedly a major public relations success for Mrs Thatcher will be mistaken for much more, possibly even by her. There are important cultural, economic and political links between Britain and the U.S. which may be greater than those with other European countries, but that does not mean that Britain necessarily has a special clout in Washington, as was shown by the tension following the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983.

For instance, Mrs Thatcher's warning about the problems caused by the strong dollar as a result of U.S. policies did not seem to have a lasting impact on the President. In his televised Press conference on Thursday evening, he said that the dollar's problems reflected the failure of the European economies to catch up with U.S. performance, which was not exactly Mrs Thatcher's tune.

Similarly, Mrs Thatcher's cautious reservations about the long-term nature of the Star Wars programme may soon be overshadowed by the Reagan Administration's enthusiasm. Mrs Thatcher's frequent references to a special relationship may therefore raise expectations about Britain's influence over U.S. policy which go well beyond her personal friendship with President Reagan. Such expectations are likely to be disappointed.

Weekend Brief

How Band Aid's cash is spent

A PIN STRIPED City executive and a Catholic monk have played key roles in turning the proceeds from a smash-hit pop record into food, medicines, clothing and shelter for famine victims in Ethiopia.

The record is Band Aid's now-famous *Do They Know It's Christmas?* which has raised more than £8m in sales, and spin-offs such as T-shirts, and direct donations. More revenue is confidently expected: the disc is still selling and there's a brand-new Band Aid computer game.

The project was conceived by Bob Geldof, singer with the Boomtown Rats, who was shocked by television pictures of starving matchstick children in Ethiopia and their equally gaunt parents. He asked, funded and produced follow-up pop celebrities and recording company moguls into putting together a single record, with all proceeds going to famine relief.

Since all the artists involved are contracted to different companies, he had to talk individuals into rearranging schedules (and taking part for nothing).

and the companies into releasing their stars and waiving royalty dues. Geldof hoped the record might make £1m. Instead, it became the fastest-selling ever, with world sales running into millions.

With that kind of response, he couldn't just take the money to Ethiopia in a briefcase. He needed expert help, which is where the City executive, Philip Rusted — a 33-year-old partner in accountants Stoy Hayward — came in.

Geldof registered Band Aid as a charity and set up a group of distinguished trustees. They turned to Stoy Hayward for help because of the firm's known expertise in the music industry, and it put Rusted and a small group at Band Aid's disposal without charge. He has been responsible for collecting all the revenue raised by the project and investing it for a maximum return en route to its final goal.

But that has been just part of the exercise: the other, difficult bit is turning the cash into practical help. The easiest solution might have been to pass the money on to established aid organisations, but Geldof declined, partly because some of it would necessarily have been absorbed in administration costs and partly because he felt that those who had bought the record would want to see "their" cash being put to direct use. That was why he made a personal visit to Ethiopia at the beginning of the year, and it was then that he met the monk, Brother Augustus, whose "parish" covers the burning desert in the north of the

country where the famine emergency is concentrated. An Irish Franciscan friar, Brother Augustus, is the representative in Ethiopia of the Christian Relief Development Agency, the co-ordinator, with government and UN approval, of all non-governmental aid agencies. With his help, Band Aid has been able to start to convert the cash into real aid.

The first step was establishing a relief centre in a central London building — lent by the Greater London Council without rent or rates. Brother Augustus tells Band Aid what is required and those at the centre (all of whom work without pay) arrange for funds. Payment is authorised by the trustees from the revenue collected by Rusted.

The latest information from Brother Augustus is that Ethiopia now has large amounts of grain. The most pressing needs are for special high-protein foods for children, medical supplies and transport. With that in mind, Band Aid's first actual shipment should take place early in March.

The successful start of the Band Aid relief operation signals the end of Band Aid itself. Geldof always considered the recording session as a "one-off", but to boost the earnings of the appeal, he now is trying to arrange a final Band Aid concert — which would actually be the "group's" first (and last) appearance in public. Negotiations are underway to hold the concert at Wembley Stadium in July, with a satellite transmission to the U.S.

Cornish tongue wags again

TODAY IS de Sadoron on tressa warn ugens mys Wherever. Since there are fewer than 2,000 people likely to understand that phrase from a language which is both British and foreign to most Britons, here is a glossary: "de" — day, "Sadoron" — Saturday, "an" — the "tressa warn ugens" — 23rd "mys" — month, "Wherever" — February.

Cornish is the poor relation of our Celtic tongues. Unlike Welsh, it boasts no Channel Four of its own. The last person to grow up with a monoglot Cornish, and learn English as a second language, died nearly 200 years ago. Yet the language itself did not quite pass away, and a handbook published early this century started the Celtic handwoven renaissance of the Tamar.

We all know a few words. "Penance" means "holy headland". "Bodmin" — unknown to summer tourists stuck on its bypass, signifies "dwelling by the sanctuary". But some inhabitants of "Kerow" — the western peninsula is known to its friends — have taken it much further.

"Blyth cosell" — Graham Sandcock tells his children. "Be quiet!" — says Anne Sanders. "Either way, the message comes across. From their earliest days their father has addressed them in Cornish, their mother in English. When all the family are talking together, she too slips into Cornish.

By profession Graham Sandcock teaches geography, in English. Out of school hours he edits a prestigious monthly magazine for dissident linguists. *An Gannas* ("Herald"), now with "extra pages" and a circulation soaring above the 300 mark, celebrating its 100th issue in April. Anne helps produce the monthly comic for children, *Len Ha Lya* (which loses some what in translation as "Read and Colour").

"Certain academics," admitted Sandcock, who lives in Liskeard, "tend to be a bit down on us, calling us 'revivalists' and accusing us of just playing at the language. But the movement which expresses the pride of being Cornish, is beginning to take off."

It still has some way to go before becoming airborne. Wella (—William) Brown of the Cornish Language Board estimated that possibly as many as 2,000 people could be classed as Cornish speakers, from the 50 or 60 who can hold a lengthy, fluent, conversation to those with just a smattering. A few mayors take the trouble to learn a paragraph or so when welcoming the Gorsedd.

The Gorsedd is a ceremonial get-together of Bards (appointed for services to the Cornish



language and culture). There are trophies awarded to winners of competitions for Cornish verse composition and "water colours," said former Grand Bard Richard Jenkin. Ceremonies involve the Horns sounding his Horn, the sweating of loyalty to the Sword of King Arthur, and the remembering of Bards who have passed on.

Other dates for the Cornish diary include the lighting of a chain of Midsummer bonfires and the celebration of An-Gof, the legendary blacksmith who led a West Country Liberation Front march on London. This April's special highlight is the wedding of Richard Jenkin's daughter — in Cornish, naturally.

Less formal gatherings of the Celtic clans take place in pubs, organised by Yeth An Wern, which means "talk-in." Several hostilities have changed their names; The Stag in Liskeard is now "An Carow."

Before children can utter the Celtic version of "What's your point?" they have to work their way through *My First Cornish Book*, *My Second Cornish Book* and classic texts such as Sylvester's *ha'n Dragoon*. Available in handy card format, *Pader Agan Arluth* is the Lord's Prayer to the rest of Britain.

The Golden Age of Cornish, according to Oliver Padel, Place Names Research Fellow at the Institute of Cornish Studies, was the medieval period that produced dramas such as *The Life of St Meriasek*. But to Wella Brown, a literary remnant is in the offing: "We've just had our first novel in Cornish."

Should this linguistic revival continue to expand, it will be disturbing for those of us from Loundres (London) and the Loundreheral (East), who at this time of year are busy banking up for our holidays west of the Tamar. One summer we may arrive there, only to discover ourselves in a foreign-sounding country, amid the alien Cornish.

Contributors:
Tom Sealy
Gillian Darley
Jonathan Sale

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Share a/c 75	Sub-shares 75	Other 75	
Abbey National	7.50	8.50	8.75	Seven-day account
			9.25	Higher interest acc. 90 days' notice or charge
			6.25-8.75	Cheque-Save
Ald to Thrift	9.60	—	—	Easy withdrawal, no penalty
Alliance	7.50	8.50	8.75	7 days' notice. Immed. wdl. if balance £2,500+
			10.00	Int. pd. 3-yrly. mthly. inc. opt. if bal. £1,000+
			9.25	Bank Save. Bal. of £2,500. Current account
Anglia	7.50	8.50	9.25	3-year bond. No notice. 3 months' penalty
			9.25	Capital share. No notice. 1 month's penalty
			8.75	7 days' notice. No interest penalty
Barclays	7.50	9.25	9.50	3-year termshare — 3 months' notice
			9.15	Special investm. share/monthly income share
Bradford and Bingley	7.50	8.50	9.00	Premium access. On demand, no pen. £1,000+
			9.25	High income. 3 months' notice or 90-day pen.
Bristol and West	7.50	8.50	8.50	Plus a/c £1,000+. No notice. No penalty.
			9.45	£20,000+, 9.20 £5,000+, 8.95 £1,000+, 7-day notice Triple Bonus. Also Monthly Income
Britannia	7.50	8.50	8.90	7 days' notice. 9.15 28 days' notice
Cardiff	9.60	9.10	9.50	90 days' not. Penalty if balance under £10,000
Catholic	7.50	8.50	9.30	Extra share. Interest monthly. Maximum 8.75
Century (Edinburgh)	8.85	—	9.36	Permanent 2/3 years or variable
Chelsea	7.50	8.50	8.75	Immed. wdl. int. pen. or 3 months' notice
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	8.50	—	Gold. No not. No pen. Under £1,000, 7.50; Over, 8.00; £5,000+ 9.38 when monthly int. added
Citizens' Agency	7.75	9.00	9.15	7 days' notice. 9.25 1 month, 9.50 3 months
City of London (The)	7.75	9.00	9.50	3 months' notice — no penalty — monthly income
			9.20	21 days' not. int. access for amts. over £10,000
Coventry	7.50	8.75	9.25	2-year bond £1,000+, close 90 days' notice and penalty. Monthly inc. opt. guaranteed 2.25 diff. Money-maker inst. acc. no pen. 9.45 £20,000+, 9.20 £5,000+, 8.95 £1,000+ monthly inc. opt.
Derbyshire	7.50	8.75	9.50	3 y., 3 m. not. with pen. 8.75 no int. p/n. m. inc.
Gateway	7.50	8.50	9.00	Gold star £1,000+. No notice. No penalties. Monthly int. £5,000+ 9.35 if added to account
Greenwich	7.50	—	9.50	90-day a/c (7-day a/c 8.75-9.25 subject to bal.)
Guardian	7.75	—	9.85	6 months, 9.60 3 months, £1,000 minimum
Halifax	7.50	8.50	8.75	7-day Xtra. 7 days' notice, no penalty
			9.00	28-day Xtra. 28 days' notice, no penalty
			9.25	90-day Xtra. 90 days' notice, no penalty
Heart of England	7.50	8.75	9.25	90-day notice. 8.75 5-day notice
Renel Hemstead	7.50	9.00	10.00	90 days, 9.50 60 days, 9.25 28 days
Hendon	8.00	—	8.75	7-d. a/c min. £500. 9.25 3 mths. a/c min. £1,000
Lambeth	7.65	8.75	9.20	7-d. a/c. 9.50 Magnum a/c 6 wks. + loss of int.
Leamington Spa	7.60	—	9.10	Soa mthly. income, no not., no pen. £500 min.
			8.75	High flyer, no notice, no penalty, £10,000 min.
			9.25	Superstar, no not., no pen. £2,000 min.
Leeds and Holbeck	7.50	9.25	9.00	Monthly interest. 9.25 28 days' notice or pen. neither if £10,000 still in account
Leeds Permanent	7.50	8.50	8.75	Liquid gold. No not. no pen. (9.00 on bal. of £2,500+) HRAS 10th issue 9.25 3 months' not.
Leicester	7.50	8.50	8.75	£500+ im. wdl. no pen. 8.73 comp. 3-y. £2,000+
London Permanent	8.00	—	9.50	60 d. not. or imm. wdl. no pen. if bal. £7,500+
Midshires	7.50	—	9.50	60 d. not. or imm. wdl. no pen. if bal. £10,000+
Mornington	7.50	8.50	9.25	250-day Xtra. 9.25 £10K+. 8.25 £2K+. £2,000—
National Counties	7.50	8.50	9.50	90 days' notice, no penalty. £1,000+
National and Provincial	7.50	8.50	9.50	HVS (share 2.00 guaranteed 3 years)
			9.25	90 days' notice/pen. unless bal. stays 10,000+
			9.00	25 days' not. 8.75 7 days' not./penalty as above
			9.25	Capital bonds. 3 yrs. 90 days' notice/penalty
			9.25	Bonus-80. 90 days' notice/penalty
			9.00	Super bonus. 28 days' notice/penalty
			8.75	Bonus-7. 7 days' notice/penalty
Newcastle	7.50	8.75	9.25	90 days' notice. 9.00 28 days' notice
			9.50	7 days' notice. On demand with penalty
Northern Rock	7.50	8.75	9.25	2-year term access with penalty
			9.50	Money-saver plus £20,000 or more
			9.25	Money-saver plus £5,000 or more
			9.00	Money-saver plus £500 or more
Norwich	7.50	8.75	9.05	7-day share monthly income option
Peckham	8.25	—	9.25-8.75	imm. wdl. if over £2,000. Monthly income
Peterborough	7.50	8.80	9.50	Flexi-plus 60 days' notice monthly income
Portman	7.50	9.25	9.10	Flexi-plus. Minimum £500. No notice imm. wdl.
Portsmouth	7.65	8.15	9.80	3 years, 9.50 90 days, 9.35 30 days, 9.05 7 days
Property Owners	8.00	8.50	8.80	3 mths., 9.50 6 mths., 9.35 28 days, 9.25 im. ac.
Scribbrong	7.50	8.75	9.50	2-yr. limited share. 1.75 guaranteed differential
Skipton	7.50	8.75	9.70	Sovereign £10,000+, 9.35 £500-£9,999. Monthly
Stroud	7.50	8.75	9.39	inc. 9.35 min. inv. £25,000. Inst. access no pen.
			3 m., 9.05 1 m., 9.05 £10,000+, no pen., no not.	
Sussex County	7.50	9.00	9.80	7 days, 9.10 Sussex high, 9.40 90 days
Sussex Mutual	7.75	9.00	9.15	Over £5,000 imm. wdl. Under £5,000 7 d. not.
Thrift	7.50	—	8.50	3-year term. Other accounts available
Town and Country	7.50	8.50	9.50	90 d. not. or pen. No not./pen. if bal. £10,000+
			9.00	7 d. not. or pen. No not./pen. if bal. £10,000+
Wessex	9.35	—	—	No notice — no penalties — minimum invest. £1
Woolwich	7.50	—	8.75	7-day account, 7 days' notice
			9.00	Monthly income shares. 28 days' notice
			9.25	80-day account, 90 days' notice/penalty
Yorkshire	7.50	8.50	9.25	Diamond key, 28 days' notice or 60 days' pen.

All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Pauls planning £23m U.S. expansion

BY ALEXANDER NICOLL

Pauls, the animal feed and malt group, yesterday announced plans for a U.S.\$23m (£23.2m) expansion of its flavours and fragrances business as it formally advised shareholders to reject a £100m bid from plantations group Harrison & Crossfield.

Depending on shareholders approval, which will not be sought until after the bid battle is over, Pauls has acquired an option to purchase the flavours and fragrances division of Felton International, a privately-owned U.S. company.

The purchase would more than double the size of Pauls' activities in this area. It has also recently been expanding into foods through Telford Foods, a make of mussels, soups and sauce mixes.

In its defence document, Pauls promised shareholders a 50 per cent dividend increase to 13p a share for the year ending March 31, 1985, including a 10.5p final dividend. Pre-tax profits were estimated at £11.5m, little changed on last year's £11.6m and the previous year's £11.6m.

Pauls said it had almost completed a major reorganisation. "H & C has bid at a time when the hard decisions have been taken and shareholders have not yet been able to reap the rewards due to them. H & C has done nothing to deserve them," said Mr Michael Falcon, Pauls chairman. He said the bid seriously undervalued Pauls.

Mr George Paul, chief executive, argued that "both core businesses (animal feed and malt) are now lean, fit and pressing forward in their respective markets. Our market share in agriculture is rising and malt contracts made for 1985 have ensured that our production capacity will be fully utilised."

Barrings, advisers to H & C, said the defence document "failed to answer the main contention of our offer that it was very fair and generous. It doesn't say why our offer was inadequate." The document did not include an estimate of earnings per share, Barrings noted.

Pauls said H & C's earnings were dependent on volatile commodity markets and that its plantations were vulnerable to political uncertainties. Pauls' shares were unchanged yesterday at 335p, and H & C's share offer of 0.75p shares for each Pauls share was thus valued at 326p, compared with the 320p cash alternative.

Barrow Hepburn cash call to cut borrowing

BY STEFAN WAGSTYL

Barrow Hepburn Group, which has switched away from its traditional tanning and leather businesses to chemicals and engineering, is asking shareholders for £2.54m via a one-for-four rights issue.

The cash call was accompanied by the announcement of a 4 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £1.65m for 1984 on sales up 26 per cent to £41m.

The new shares are being issued at 39p each against a closing price yesterday of 47p, down 3p on the day.

The company says it wants the money to reduce borrowings which have been increased by the £1.5m acquisition in November 1983 of Barnsley-based specialty chemicals company. Loan notes for the great part of the purchase price are expected to be redeemed in April.

Barrow has also agreed to pay up to \$1.5m for a U.S. safety engineering company, DS Industries, acquired in April.

The company says the extra capital will allow it to expand further its chemical compounds and engineering divisions.

Mr Raymond Way, chief executive, says: "It certainly puts our balance sheet in a good position. Borrowings will fall to about 13 per cent of shareholders' funds."

The chemical compounds and engineering divisions accounted for all the growth in 1984, increasing trading profits to £809,000 (£610,000) and to £866,000 (£253,000) respectively. In consumer products profits dipped to £381,000, and the

Australian hide dealing company fell from a £24,000 profit to a £25,000 loss.

Barrow says it is too early to make predictions about the outcome for 1985, but the trends in the group's major businesses are encouraging.

It is paying a 0.7p net second interim dividend for 1984 and a final payment of 0.7p net, making an unchanged 2.5p total. The rights issue has been underwritten by Kleinwort Benson and the brokers are Eversen Grant and Albert E. Sharp.

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118% profit surge at Mount Charlotte

BY ALEXANDER NICOLL

AN INCREASE of 118 per cent in taxable profits from £4.6m to £10.03m was achieved in 1984 by Mount Charlotte Investments, the hotel and catering group.

Shareholders are set for a higher final dividend of 0.74p, against 0.63p, and are told that further "significant progress" is expected for the group in 1985.

The figures include results from the date of acquisition of the 100% share in the 349-room Rialto Hotel in London, purchased from Scottish & Newcastle Breweries on November 14 for £10m.

Group taxable profits for the second half of the year climbed from £2.2m to £5.5m following the more than doubled £3.3m result at half-way, which was accompanied with a higher interim dividend of 0.46p (0.4p).

Full year turnover came to £43.7m, against £27.89m, generating trading profits of £12m compared with £6.5m. Taxable profits were struck after higher interest payable, up from £2.71m to £1.98m.

The tax charge was £1.54m (£537,000), leaving net profits of £2.46m (£406m) equal to earnings per share of 5.2p (4.1p).

There was a £315,000 extraordinary credit this time relating to fixed assets and listed investment disposals.

● **comment**

A combination of strong progress in the old core businesses and a developing strength in new acquisitions makes Mount Charlotte one of the fastest-growing hotel chains in the UK. With a strong balance sheet behind it, the group's strategy is to inject its successful management into all hotels and gradually upgrade and switch rooms into better-margin commercial occupancy as a cushion against the sensitive tourist trade. So far the Scottish Rialto chain seems to be responding quite quickly, contributing better than £1m in the five months since acquisition.

Aberdeen coming through strongly on the back of the oil boom and Glasgow and Irvine now in the black. Down in the south, an increase in room tariffs of around 8 per cent coupled with occupancy rates of 90 per cent pushed up London's contribution to group profits to over a half. This year should see another strong push as Glasgow and Irvine make more progress, the Royal Scott comes in for the first time and London room rates continue to rise. A likely outcome of £15m before tax at 20 per cent puts the 84p shares on a perspective multiple of around 14.

● **BPM bid referred**

The takeover of BPM Holdings, owners of the Birmingham Post and Mail, by Yattendon Investment Trust, which is owned by the Diffe family's trusts, has been referred by the Government to the Monopolies Commission.

The Government is obliged to make a referral under the terms of the 1973 Fair Trading Act since the Diffe family trust already owns a significant number of newspapers, including the Coventry Evening Telegraph and Cambridge Evening News.

Yattendon has already declared its offer unconditional, having received acceptances covering over 90 per cent of all categories of BPM shares.

Booker pays £6.7m for 13 Fitch Lovell depots

BY ALEXANDER NICOLL

Booker McConnell, the food distribution and agribusiness group which is fighting a £310m bid from Dee Corporation, is buying Fitch Lovell's 13 cash and carry wholesale depots in the South-west and Midlands for £6.7m in cash.

Booker is already the largest cash-and-carry operator in the UK, with Dee the second largest. Concentration in this business was the main focus of last month's report by the Monopolies Commission, which cleared Dee to bid for Booker.

The Office of Fair Trading, responsible for referring bids to the Commission, said yesterday that it was considering the latest transaction in relation to Dee's bid.

Booker said the depots would be integrated into its existing network of 102 depots and would allow greater efficiency and cost reductions. Mr Jonathan Taylor, managing director, said: "We filling geographical expansion if we were not highly satisfied with the performance of our cash-and-carry business overall."

Booker said the acquisition would improve the profitability of the cash-and-carry business in 1985, following a return to significant profitability in 1984.

The Fitch Lovell depots had sales of £51.7m and pre-tax profit of £762,000 in the year ended April 28, 1984. Net assets of the business being acquired were £5.6m, including £2m of cash resources. The purchase price includes repayment of a £100,000 loan.

Booker estimated that, after adjustment for Fitch Lovell management charges, the increase in pre-tax profits resulting from the purchase would be £1m in a full year.

Fitch Lovell said the sale was part of an effort to concentrate its resources on its specialist agribusiness manufacturing and distribution.

Booker's share price fell yesterday to 241p, while Dee's lost 3p to 77p, valuing its share offer for Dee at 249p. Dee's week forecast doubled profits and disclosed plans to restructure 300 jobs.



Mr Jonathan Taylor, managing director of Booker McConnell.

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Ward White on 'proven record'

BY MARTIN DICKSON

Ward White, the Northampton-based shoe retailing group, said yesterday that its 290m contested takeover bid for Foster Brothers Clothing, the menswear chain, would create a powerful UK retailing presence with annual sales of over £250m.

In its offer document to Foster Brothers shareholders, Ward White said it had a proven record of successfully integrating retail businesses and had the management to improve Foster Brothers' trading performance.

The company is bidding five of its shares for every six Foster's, which at yesterday's Ward White closing price of 232p, up 2p on the day, values each Foster share at 155p. That compares to Foster's close last night at 204p, up 2p. There is a cash alternative offer of 170p a share.

Ward White said the paper offer represented an increase in dividend income of 15 per cent and an increase in capital value of 58 per cent over the Foster share price on January 16, just before Ward White began buying Foster shares.

It also meant an uplift of more than 40 per cent over the audited net asset value of Foster at the end of February last year.

Mr Philip Birch, Ward White's chairman, said that the company's ability to integrate businesses had been shown most recently in its acquisition of Halfords, the motor accessories retailer, which it bought a year ago from Burton, Dorset. This had already achieved a "significantly improved performance."

Ward White intended to carry out a full review of Foster's activities, including the possible acceleration of the largest refurbishment programme already under way.

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and-carry business overall."

Booker said the acquisition would improve the profitability of the cash-and-carry business in 1985, following a return to significant profitability in 1984.

The Fitch Lovell depots had sales of £51.7m and pre-tax profit of £762,000 in the year ended April 28, 1984. Net assets of the business being acquired were £5.6m, including £2m of cash resources. The purchase price includes repayment of a £100,000 loan.

Booker estimated that, after adjustment for Fitch Lovell management charges, the increase in pre-tax profits resulting from the purchase would be £1m in a full year.

Fitch Lovell said the sale was part of an effort to concentrate its resources on its specialist agribusiness manufacturing and distribution.

Booker's share price fell yesterday to 241p, while Dee's lost 3p to 77p, valuing its share offer for Dee at 249p. Dee's week forecast doubled profits and disclosed plans to restructure 300 jobs.

Ward White, the Northampton-based shoe retailing group, said yesterday that its 290m contested takeover bid for Foster Brothers Clothing, the menswear chain, would create a powerful UK retailing presence with annual sales of over £250m.

In its offer document to Foster Brothers shareholders, Ward White said it had a proven record of successfully integrating retail businesses and had the management to improve Foster Brothers' trading performance.

The company is bidding five of its shares for every six Foster's, which at yesterday's Ward White closing price of 232p, up 2p on the day, values each Foster share at 155p. That compares to Foster's close last night at 204p, up 2p. There is a cash alternative offer of 170p a share.

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RESULTS DUE NEXT WEEK

All eyes on ICI for £1bn profit

THIS TIME last year, Imperial Chemical Industries unveiled its full-year profits which, at £210m, fell somewhat short of what the City had in mind. On Thursday it is due to try again, and there is likely to be a significant improvement if the 1984 figure does not surprise past the 11bn milestone. The company has set this as its target (although had not pledged to fulfil it by last December), and few if any analysts think it will fail. Expectations range just above the magic number, from around £1.05bn to £1.1bn. Turnover is not thought likely to create a simultaneous break through the £1.0bn barrier, but should not be far behind at £9.5bn to £9.8bn. What ICI has pledged, though, is to restore the dividend to the 1984 level of 12.5p per share, which will be paid on the £1bn profits. The City interprets this as a final payout of 18p net per share, taking the total for the year from 24p to 36p. The bulk of the improvement is being attributed to a turnaround in petrochemicals and plastics, swinging back from loss to a trading contribution of £137m to £150m. It has been a beneficiary of the strength both of the dollar with its US business developing fast, even ahead of December's \$750m splashed out to buy the Beatrice chemicals side—and of the D-mark, in which European chemicals are priced.

The report from the North American battle front will be the most closely-read part of the 1984 preliminary statement. Reuters, due on Tuesday, at the half-year, Reuters admitted that sales in North America were falling behind budget, in the face of fierce competition from Telerate. Moreover, the high cost of doing the groundwork for the North American system was holding back profits. This time, the City will be hoping for more positive news, though it will still be too soon to judge the eventual outcome of what is likely to be a long campaign. In Europe, meanwhile, the company is expected to have achieved the same strong growth as in the past five years—particularly in dealing services where there is no competition. The City is expected to see pre-tax profits of about £70m (£55.3m).

Standard, Telephones, and Cables will no doubt try to seize the opportunity of the announcement of the 1984 preliminary results on Wednesday to make good some of the damage done to its relations with the City by last week's right issue. With the market price now below the 1980 issue price of 15p, it is likely to be about £140m, including the full-year contribution from ICI, under merger accounting rules.

This breaks down to £100m from the old STC (against £92m in 1983), and £40m from ICI (£47m) minus about £3m interest costs on the acquisition payment. Profits from the STC telephone exchange, the biggest single income source, are running down faster than had been anticipated, while research and development and capital spending continue unabated. The dividend is to be £75p net, making 9p in total (7.5p).

The main impetus behind the expected profit improvement, at Vickers, which is due to report preliminary results on Monday, will, undoubtedly, be the Rolls Royce figures, although the market will want some clarification about the level of reported sales in the U.S. The particularly weak position should have given a big boost to unit sales but figures only 1,545 models were sold during the year, down from only 1,760 more than the previous comparable period's low base. Nevertheless, the margins on these sales should be wide indeed. Elsewhere, the same currency movements should have helped. However, the group led by the defence, business equipment and marine engineering sides will be reporting good progress. The only exception will be the restructured Australian associate, which is still suffering from depressed demand. The general consensus is for pre-tax profits of at least £32m, against £19.5m.

The ICI results should not entirely overshadow the year's outcome at Fisons, due on the same day. Its reorientation out of fertilisers and farm chemicals, giving in the struggle against ICI's production cost advantages, was wrapped up the previous year, and the benefits should again show through in a clean set of accounts awaited this round. Taxable profits are expected to push ahead from £31.2m to around £46.5m to £47m, on sales accelerating from £385.4m to possibly £535m. Shareholders are thought to have a net 4.5p in prospect, this compares with 3.75p for 1983. Adjusted for the stock split last June, Thursday will see the first full opportunity to judge the performance of its U.S. scientific equipment business, which is believed to be the trading well up to the expectations of Fisons at the time of the February purchase. The division is viewed as the prime contributor to growth, but good showings are also forecast on the pharmaceutical and horticultural sides. Among other companies reporting results next week are Johnson Matthey with third quarter figures on Tuesday, Van der Grinten with final results on the same day, and Marley with final results on Wednesday.

Daimler-Benz to assume full control of MTU

BY JONATHAN CARR IN FRANKFURT

DAIMLER-BENZ, the West German motor manufacturer, plans to take full control of Motoren- und Turbinen-Union (MTU) of Munich in a deal which will strengthen its hold in the aero-engine, and related high technology fields.

Daimler-Benz already has a 50 per cent stake in the company, which it formed with the MAN engineering concern in 1969 to pool resources in the aero and diesel-engine fields.

It will acquire MAN's 50 per cent holding, subject to approval by the cartel authorities. No price was officially disclosed but industry sources estimated the figure at around DM 500m (£149m).

Daimler-Benz will thus

become sole owner of a group with a labour force of 12,300 and a likely turnover this year of DM 2.2bn—more than one-third of that in the military sector.

Among other products, MTU makes engines for the Tornado combat aircraft (its best selling item) and for civil airlines, as well as diesel engines for ships and heavy vehicles. It has also been expanding its activities in data processing and software.

The injection of funds from the MTU deal will be a major boon to MAN, which is struggling back to profit after years of heavy losses, notably in the commercial vehicles sector.

MAN has had to undergo a

drastic slimming and restructuring cure and its difficulties have forced its parent, the GHH group, to cut its dividend.

Moreover, while MAN achieved some economies of scale through its partnership with Daimler-Benz, the MTU arrangement did not bring all the benefits hoped for.

For Daimler-Benz, the new move means a firm push further beyond the mainstream activity of vehicle building—but not into a wholly new field. The company's involvement in aero-engines even goes back to the start of the century.

With net profit last year alone estimated to be around the DM 1bn mark, Daimler-Benz should have little trouble paying for its extra stake in MTU.

Finns to acquire Bastogi unit

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN IN MILAN

BASTOGI, the industrial holding and property group which is controlled by the Pesenti family's Italian empire, is selling its Sanremi subsidiary to Kone of Finland. The Finnish company is believed to be paying around L45bn (£22m).

The disposal of the Bologna-based Sabien, which makes lifts, is part of Bastogi's overall debt reduction plan. In recent months Bastogi has sold

its chemicals and pharmaceutical subsidiary, Pierrel, to Sweden's Fermenta group. In December it sold Sial, its communications subsidiary, for L75bn to International Signal, the U.S. defence and communications group. Bastogi has also disposed of its Delta insurance business.

With the disposal of Sabien, Bastogi will have realised around L150bn through sales in

the past few months. This compares with the Bastogi debt of around L200bn.

Bastogi is also understood to be negotiating with Enel, the Italian state utility, for the transfer of around L40bn of property.

Italmobiliare owns around a quarter of Bastogi, which is the largest single shareholding and provides the Pesenti family with effective control.

Komatsu earnings fall by 22%

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

KOMATSU, JAPAN'S biggest earth-moving and construction plant producer, has announced a 22 per cent drop in parent company net income for the year ended December 31, to ¥23.7bn (\$90m) from ¥30.6bn in 1983. Earnings per share declined to ¥29.08 from ¥37.8.

At the pre-tax level, profits dropped 21 per cent to ¥44.34bn from ¥56.53bn. Overall sales were down 5.8 per cent to ¥575.61bn from ¥611.36bn, reflecting the same difficult

market conditions that have hit other construction equipment companies.

However, there was some recovery in the U.S. market, where Komatsu announced last week that it was in the final stages of acquiring a site for a new plant, and the company is forecasting an increase of over 50 per cent this year to ¥63bn. It hopes to see net profit recover 9.6 per cent in 1985 to ¥26bn, or ¥31.28 a share.

World sales of construction equipment fell 7.6 per cent last year to ¥493.85bn, with a rela-

tively healthy 10 per cent rise in Japanese domestic demand failing to offset a 17 per cent fall in exports.

By contrast Komatsu's industrial machinery sales—principally robots and machine tools—showed a rise of nearly 25 per cent to ¥40bn, and the company is forecasting an increase of over 50 per cent this year to ¥63bn. It hopes to see net profit recover 9.6 per cent in 1985 to ¥26bn, or ¥31.28 a share.

Capital spending totalled ¥320.6m last year, with food distribution accounting for 70 per cent.

Steady advance by George Weston

BY BERNARD SIMON IN TORONTO

GEORGE WESTON, the Canadian-based food and forest products group, raised net earnings to C\$93.5m (U.S.\$68.7m) in 1984, up from C\$87.2m (U.S.\$67.2m) in 1983.

The results include a C\$4.7m extraordinary gain in 1984, reflecting tax reductions on earlier years' losses net of the costs of closing food distribution interests in the U.S. Sales

rose from C\$7.8bn to C\$8.5bn. The company's interest expense jumped by 37 per cent to C\$68.8m, an increase was ascribed to a cut in capitalised interest following the completion of major construction projects in 1983.

Weston's interests include Loblaw's, a leading Canadian supermarket chain, as well as bakeries and confectionery and biscuit manufacturers. Mr. Galen

Weston, chairman and president, controls 57 per cent of the shares.

Mr. Weston said that strong competition in the company's major markets and lower pulp and fine paper prices would put pressure on first half earnings in 1985.

Capital spending totalled C\$206m last year, with food distribution accounting for 70 per cent.

Arabs in rescue bid for French engineer

By David Marsh in Paris

A GROUP of Arab investors has agreed to acquire Chateaufort-et-Mauray, the French engineering company which is the country's largest manufacturer of water heaters, as part of a rescue operation co-ordinated by French nationalised banks.

Chateaufort, which incurred losses of FF 260m (\$25m) in 1983 and is believed to have a total asset deficiency of about FF 500m, will receive a FF 50m capital injection from the Arab group. It will also benefit from a FF 400m in new cash and loan reschedulings agreed by its leading banks, Credit Industriel et Commercial, Credit Lyonnais and Societe Generale.

The group is believed to have run into trouble particularly over a venture to build houses in Algeria. The identity of the Arab investors has not been revealed.

The rescue package, authorised by the Paris Commercial Court, provides for the banks to abandon FF 140m of claims on the company, defer repayments of FF 63m and provide new loans of FF 230m.

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Alfa-Laval pre-tax profits tumble 50% as demand weakens

BY DAVID BROWN IN STOCKHOLM

ALFA-LAVAL, the Swedish farm equipment and process engineering group, reports a 50 per cent drop in 1984 pre-tax profits as a result of poor markets for virtually all of its agricultural and industrial products.

However, Mr Harry Faulkner, the managing director, stresses that profits will rise "considerably" in 1985.

Overall, sales for 1984 declined by 4 per cent to SKr 8,480m (\$900m), and the order backlog dropped by 2 per cent to SKr 2,840m against 1983.

Profits before tax and appropriations were SKr 405m, against SKr 807m. Costs remained virtually at the same level, and the operating result after depreciation fell from SKr 827m to SKr 391m. The

company had forecast a big setback. Alfa-Laval has been particularly hard hit by the imposition of milk quotas in the EEC. The agricultural division, which accounts for a quarter of total turnover reports 21 per cent lower sales.

In the industrial sector, which generates over half the total, a slight increase in turnover did not prevent a fall in income.

The group expects considerable losses on its Algerian refrigerated warehouse project, for which it has made provisions of "at least SKr 150m," the company said. It plans to withdraw altogether from the contracting business.

Earnings per share fell to SKr 14.20 from SKr 27.30. The dividend remains at SKr 9. See Lex

Strong gain for Swedish pharmaceuticals group

BY OUR STOCKHOLM STAFF

ASTRA, of Sweden, the largest pharmaceuticals group in the Nordic region, reports a 21 per cent rise in earnings before tax for 1984 to SKr 789m (\$83.7m).

Sales and licensing income climbed by 10 per cent to SKr 4,220m from the SKr 3,820m achieved in 1983. Higher volumes outside Sweden generated most of the growth. There were substantial improvements in the U.S. and Japan.

Short-term growth prospects are modest, Astra says. It

expects both sales and earnings before extraordinary items to grow by a relatively slow 12 per cent this year, assuming the Puemico anti-asthma and Rhinocort allergy drugs are not withdrawn from the market. These account for an estimated 3 per cent of total sales.

The company has been investing heavily in research, development and capacity and is preparing to launch a number of new products.

Profit per share is SKr 17, against SKr 11. The dividend is being maintained at SKr 2.80.

Ciba boosted by exports

BY JOHN WICKS IN ZÜRICH

CIBA-GEIGY, the Swiss chemicals and pharmaceuticals group, reports strong profit gains for 1984 and plans to lift its dividend.

Buoyed up by exports and the strength of the dollar, net profits have risen to SwFr 1.18bn (\$418m) from the SwFr 776m of 1983. Sales were 18 per cent higher.

The improved returns are allowing Ciba to increase its dividend by SwFr 4 a share to SwFr 35. The group has now stepped up its payout for four years running.

Ciba says its profits are net

of the extraordinary expenditure incurred last year in respect of Schelde Chemie, the former joint venture with Bayer of West Germany.

The sharp growth in profits is attributed to both improved performance within the group and to a number of favourable external factors, including a recovery in important export markets and the rise in the dollar exchange rate.

Operating cash-flow went up from SwFr 1.58bn to SwFr 2.05bn. Self-financing capacity is said by Ciba to have been enough to cover increased capital expenditure.

market conditions that have hit other construction equipment companies.

However, there was some recovery in the U.S. market, where Komatsu announced last week that it was in the final stages of acquiring a site for a new plant, and the company is forecasting an increase of over 50 per cent this year to ¥63bn. It hopes to see net profit recover 9.6 per cent in 1985 to ¥26bn, or ¥31.28 a share.

World sales of construction equipment fell 7.6 per cent last year to ¥493.85bn, with a rela-

tively healthy 10 per cent rise in Japanese domestic demand failing to offset a 17 per cent fall in exports.

By contrast Komatsu's industrial machinery sales—principally robots and machine tools—showed a rise of nearly 25 per cent to ¥40bn, and the company is forecasting an increase of over 50 per cent this year to ¥63bn. It hopes to see net profit recover 9.6 per cent in 1985 to ¥26bn, or ¥31.28 a share.

Capital spending totalled ¥320.6m last year, with food distribution accounting for 70 per cent.

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Financial Times Saturday February 23 1985

PARIS Share prices, 5

...were mixed, but Precision instruments fell. Shipplings and auto Autos powered ahead, but Machine Tools, Textiles, and Retailers slipped. Selected chemicals and constructions

Green Cross shed Y30 to Y1680—slid parent-only net fell 29 per cent as sales dropped 10 per cent. Vancouver's Y100 to Y3200—An Exchange report said Foreign ownership of the company's shares had fallen below the 20 per cent ceiling required to 10.6 per cent as of February 16.

Asahi Glass Armed Y78 to Y874—parent only net improved 16 per cent as sales rose 1 per cent. Kometon Armed Y78 to Y874—parent only net fell 23 per cent as sales slipped 6 per cent.

Toronto declined Y70 to Y1310—parent-only net rose 1 per cent as sales rose 5 per cent.

London Columbia wert off Y180 to Y1400—its trimmed its requirements for sales, net and returning profits.

GERMANY

Mixed close to active trading, but chemicals particularly underplayed by expectations of higher profits, rising strongly on re-emerging foreign investor buying, dealers said.

The soaring U.S. currency against the weaker dollar helped Export-Oriented shares closed higher, but Import-Related issues lost ground.

An anticipated avalanche of dollar-driven purchase orders from foreign investors did not materialise, brokers added, contrary to pre-empting expectations.

Demand was selective and centred around stock, steel, chemicals, Chemicals and Automotive shares the main beneficiaries. Chemicals prospered as prices closed from DM 2 to DM 5.5 each. The Auto sector finished with gains up to DM 3.

Banking and Import equities, however, lost ground on the day. Dealers said the high value of the dollar is dramatically increasing some raw material supplies and makes finished goods brought in from the U.S. more expensive.

Retailing shares were particularly hard-hit because of this negative effect of the strong dollar, they added.

PARIS

Share prices finished lower across a broad front in relatively calm trading. Declines outnumbered advances by 82-70. Brokers attributed the soft tone to some profit-taking, fears of higher U.S. interest rates and disappointing French trade figures for February.

Portfolios were firm in contrast to the market's broadly lower trend.

Gold Mines were weak in the Foreign section, especially French Brand, Vaal Reef and Free State.

AUSTRALIA

Widespread profit-taking pushed shares up. Falls outnumbered gains by almost three-to-one.

The All Ordinaries Index dipped 10.4 to 753.3, the All Industrials 14.0 to 1,162.6, the All Resources 7.6 to 494.7 and the All Financials 9.0 to 471.1.

Turnover was 47.6m (\$5.66m) shares, worth about \$A39.63m (\$A100.37m).

Brokers said there was a feeling that markets had risen too quickly in recent days. The firmer Australian dollar and a weaker copper price also contributed to the slide.

About 2000 Broker shares changed hands in Sydney, and the stock closed steady at \$A2.11 after touchings \$A2.35.

Allied Mills were keenly sought with 1.1m shares traded. The 2500 Arncliffe, which has a large cross shareholding in Allied, shed 5 cents to \$A3.50 on turnover of 1.09m shares.

Among Mines, Placer lost 50 cents to \$A24.50. Central Norseman 30 cents to \$A5.90. WBC 13 cents to \$A3.50 and Peke 12 cents to \$A4.58. Tenement falls had Aherfyle at \$A9.20, GMR at \$A3.70 and Posidon at \$A2.00.

AMSTERDAM

Mixed in active trading with most shares declining from their opening levels. Continuing profit-taking and some position-squaring ahead of the weekend put pressure on prices.

The All-Share Index shed 1.4 to 204.1 from Thursday's all-time high of 205.5.

Tokyo Sanyo...
Tokyo Style...

[illegible]

CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar at new high

The dollar continued to improve in currency markets yesterday, underpinned by a growing belief that U.S. interest rates are unlikely to fall in the foreseeable future.

The dollar closed at DM 3.3870, down from a high of DM 3.3930, but up from Thursday's close of DM 3.3660.

It also rose to SWF 2.8565 from SWF 2.8370 and to a record FF 10.37 from FF 10.2625. Against the yen it rose to ¥262.75 from ¥261.50 with the Bank of Japan probably intervening earlier in Tokyo to sell dollars. On Bank of England figures, the dollar's index rose to a record 158.1 from 153.3.

Sterling's index fell to 71.5

from 71.7, mainly as a result of its fall to a record closing low of \$1.0765-1.0775, down 50 points from Thursday. It finished above its worst level of \$1.0720 however and rose to its best level since January 4 against the D-mark, closing at DM 3.6500, up from DM 3.6335.

Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar.

OTHER CURRENCIES

Feb. 22	£	\$	¢
Argentina Peso	256.70	256.18	256.05
Australia Dollar	1,019.0	1,017.0	1,016.85
Belgium Franc	1,019.0	1,017.0	1,016.85
Finland Markka	7,518.5	7,517.0	7,516.85
French Franc	1,019.0	1,017.0	1,016.85
Green Reichsmark	1,019.0	1,017.0	1,016.85
Hong Kong Dollar	3,900.0	3,900.0	3,900.0
Indian Rupee	104.00	104.00	104.00
Japanese Yen	1,019.0	1,017.0	1,016.85
Kuwait Dirham (D.)	0.3200	0.3200	0.3200
Malaya Straits Dollar	7,518.5	7,517.0	7,516.85
Philippine Dollar	2,750.0	2,750.0	2,750.0
New Zealand Dollar	3,900.0	3,900.0	3,900.0
Portuguese Escudo	2,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0
Singapore Dollar	2,440.0	2,440.0	2,440.0
U.S. Air Force Rand	2,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0
U.S.A. Pirham	3,900.0	3,900.0	3,900.0
Austria	256.05	256.18	256.70
Belgium	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
France	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
Germany	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
Italy	256.05	256.18	256.70
Netherlands	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
Norway	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
Sweden	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
Spain	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
Switzerland	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
United States	1,016.85	1,017.0	1,019.0
Yugoslavia	256.05	256.18	256.70

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